Contents

Updated February 21, 2018

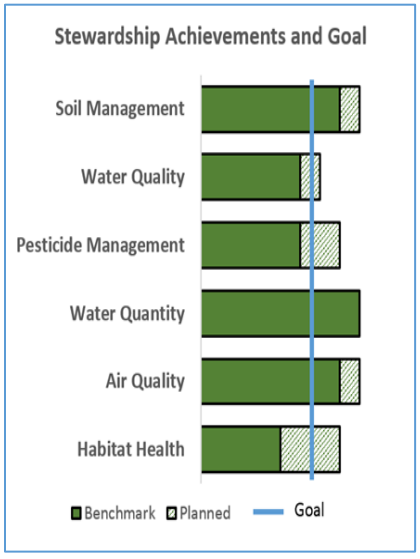
Resource Stewardship Overview

Resource Stewardship (RS) is a voluntary service provided by NRCS through a new evaluation tool. RS enhances conservation planning by benchmarking the level of resource stewardship on the land and helping NRCS clients better identify their conservation goals and improve their outcomes.

RS (also known as the Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool or RSET) uses a web-based platform to evaluate the health of soil, water, air and wildlife habitat. RS evaluates a user defined management system against the inherent site characteristics in order to perform this evaluation.

Upon the completion of RS, clients receive a report called the Resource Stewardship Evaluation (RSE) which visually graphs their stewardship achievements and suggests opportunities to improve resource stewardship. Evaluations are currently available for crop, pasture and range land uses. Future updates will include forest and farmstead evaluations.

If you would like a Resource Stewardship Evaluation completed on your operation, please reach out to your [local NRCS office (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/).



Above: Example visual from an RSE report, highlighting where a client's operation scores on each of the criteria listed in comparison to the vertical blue threshold bar. The shaded bars suggest

opportunities the client can take to meet or surpass the threshold bar and improve resource stewardship.

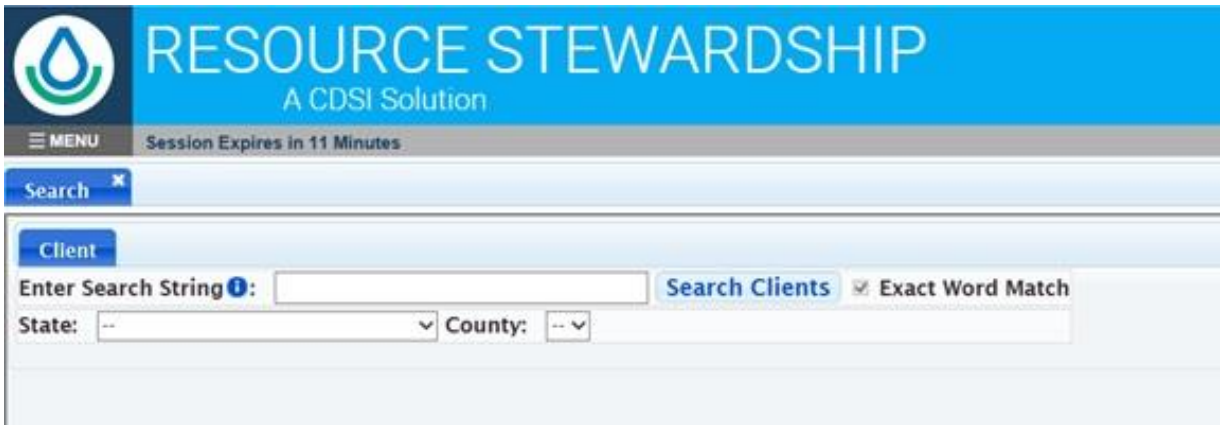
Please note that in order to maintain and protect confidential client information, only NRCS staff and specific partners can currently access RS.

Instructional walk-throughs on this site are developed for those with access to RS to use as a resource while completing evaluations, but anyone interested in learning more about RS or the technical foundation behind it can access these walk-throughs or more information available on the appendix page.

To access Resource Stewardship, visit https://rs.sc.egov.usda.gov/Splash.aspx/.

Client Search Overview

Selecting a client and Planned Land Unit (PLU) is the first step in Resource Stewardship (RS). Please note that only NRCS staff and select partners have access to detailed client information within RS.



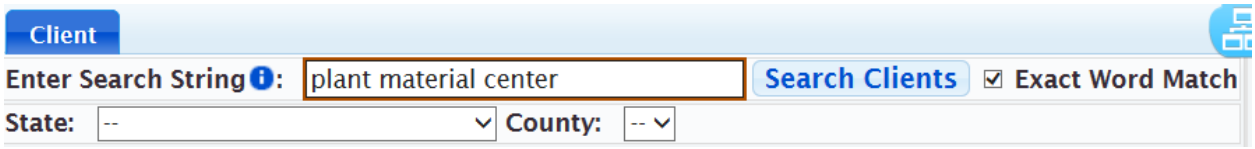
After logging into Resource Stewardship (https://rs.sc.egov.usda.gov/Splash.aspx), a search bar will be displayed to search for clients and identify a Planned Land Unit (PLU) to evaluate. Access to clients is determined by individual user's role(s) in the Customer Service Toolkit (CST), managed through the zroles system.

It is important to note that a PLU must be identified and created in CST prior to running an evaluation. A PLU is a unique geographic area, defined by a polygon, which has common land use and is owned, operated, or managed by the same cooperator(s). The PLU is the minimum unit for planning and evaluation. RS pulls PLUs from CST. PLUs must be in Plan (green) or in Locked (red) status and will be imported from an existing conservation map plan by searching for the land user's name. PLUs may or may not correspond to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) tracts and fields identified in the Common Land Unit (CLU) layer maintained by FSA depending on how the PLUs were setup in toolkit by the conservation planner. Any number of planned land units may be evaluated individually or together in an operation evaluation. When performing the evaluation, adjacent land which is outside of the PLU but integral to the PLU management system will also be considered when evaluating the PLU. For instance, management of field bordering vegetation and adjacent conservation practices, such as windbreaks, may also provide wildlife benefits, as well as have an effect on soil, water, and air quality.

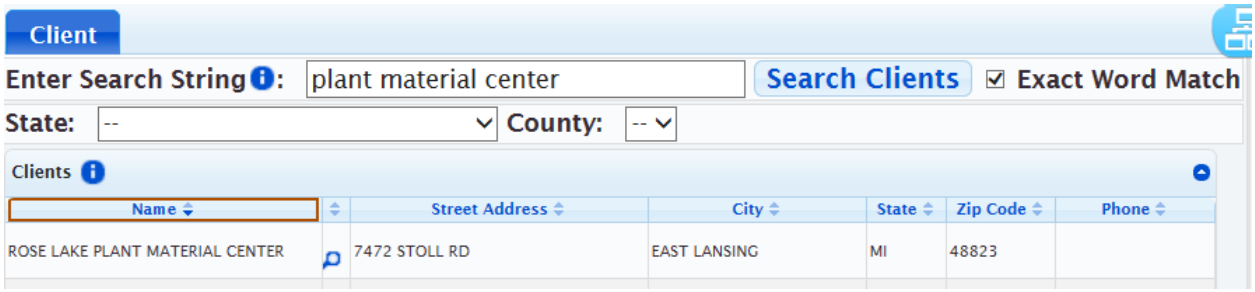
Client Search Walk-Through

STEP 1: Identify the Client

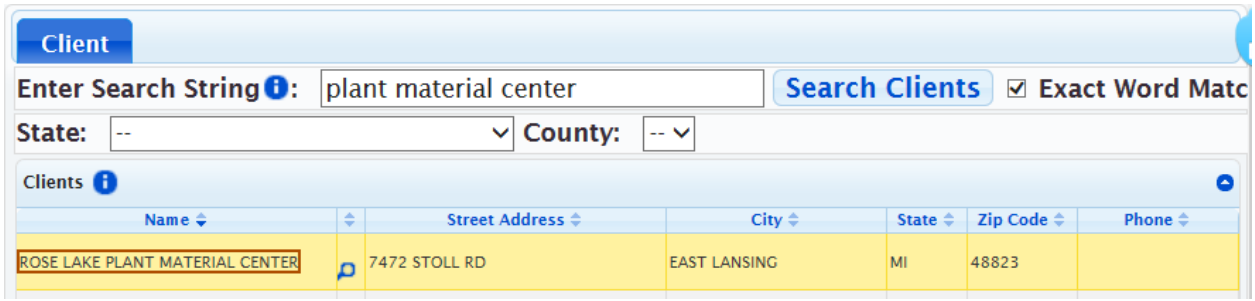
1. Search the National Planning and Agreements Database (NPAD) for a client by entering the client name in the search string and clicking the **Search Clients** button. The returned client results can be narrowed down to clients in state and county or the initial client search can specifically search for clients by state and county. Uncheck the **Exact Word Match** box for clients with an ampersand (&) in their name.



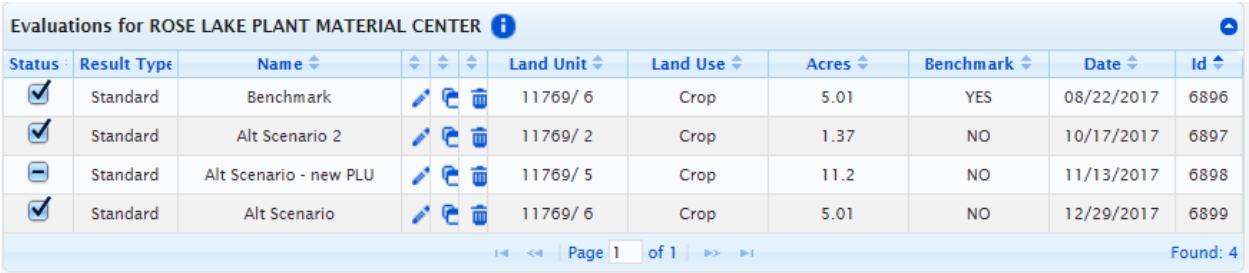
If numerous clients are returned, the client list can be sorted numerically or alphabetically by clicking on the column header.



2. Select the client by clicking on the client's name.

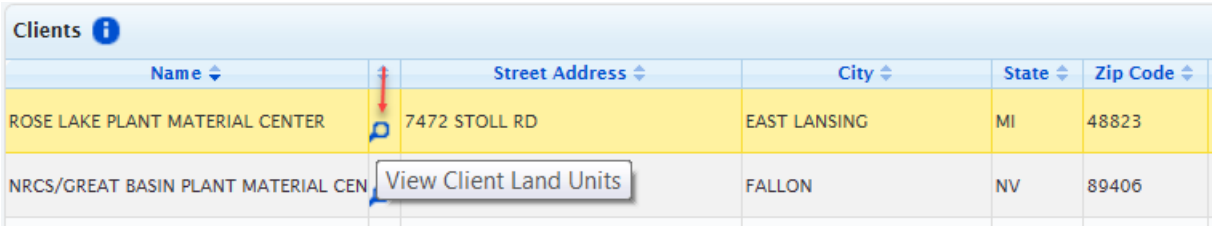


Existing PLUs (if any) and operation evaluations will be displayed.



Step 2: Identify the Planned Land Unit

1. Click on the **View Client Land Units** button to view the client's land units.



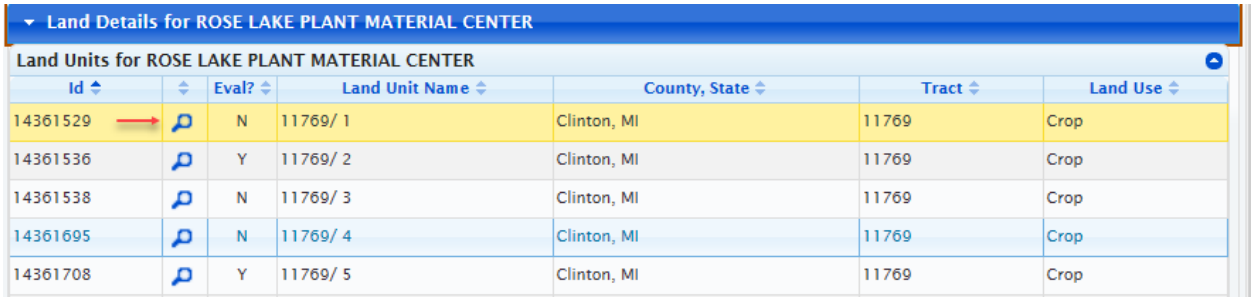
The land units can be sorted numerically or alphabetically by clicking the up or down arrow located on the column header.

2. If several land units are associated with this client, determine which one to select. Click on a land unit in the display area to view the attributes. To dismiss the popup, click the x located in the upper right corner or click in the map area off of the land unit.

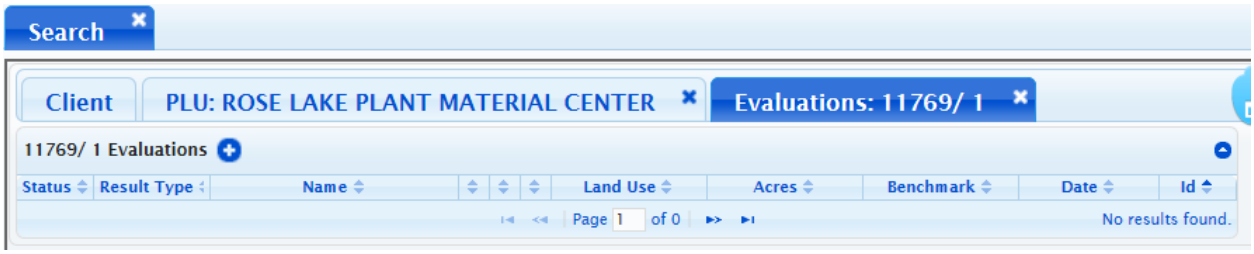
Navigating the Display Area

Zoom In	Click the Zoom In + button or roll the mouse scroll wheel away from you.
Zoom Out	Click the Zoom Out − button or roll the mouse scroll wheel towards from you.
Pan	Hold down the left mouse button or scroll wheel and move the mouse.

3. Click the **View or Add Evaluations** button associated with the selected land unit.



An Evaluations tab is added.



The [Create New Evaluation (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?cid=nrcseprd1371165)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?cid=nrcseprd1371165) help webpage provides guidance on adding a new evaluation.

Creating a New Evaluation Overview

RS allows users to create two different types of evaluations: a benchmark and an alternate scenario. A benchmark designation is meant to act as a starting point for conservation planning. RS envisions the opportunities for evaluating multiple scenarios as part of the planning process, as well as documenting implementation and effects as conservation practices and activities are applied.

Alternate scenarios may be related to specific conservation plans, programs or evaluation dates documenting continuous improvement. The user should select a name for the evaluation which appropriately indicates its relationship.

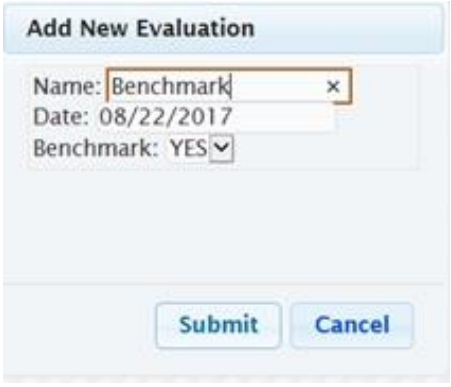
The date for the evaluation defaults to the date it was create in RS. The user may modify this date to reflect when the field evaluation was conducted.

Creating a New Evaluation Walk-Through

Once a client and planned land unit (PLU) have been selected, the Evaluations tab will be added on the Client bar in the Search tab.

1. Click the **Add New Evaluation** button (looks like a plus sign).

2. The Add New Evaluation dialog opens. In the Add New Evaluation dialog, enter the **evaluation name**, **date** and answer **Yes** if this is the benchmark evaluation. The benchmark represents the current condition. There can only be one benchmark per PLU but there can be many alternate scenario evaluations. Click the **Submit** button when done.



The evaluation is added to the evaluation list.

Evaluations Bar Overview

Once an evaluation has been created, it will appear in the Evaluations bar list under the Search tab. The Evaluations bar is where the user can select previous evaluations that have been started or completed for the client. The Evaluations bar displays the result type, the name, the land unit, the land use, acres, benchmark, date and Id. The Evaluations bar also allows the user to edit, copy, or delete evaluations.

Result type: Displays standard or alternative evaluations based on whether the user selected final result type (alternative evaluations utilize input from stand alone tools).

Name: User defined

Land Unit: Customer Service Toolkit (CST) PLU identifying number, typically the FSA tract/field number

Acres: Size of PLU

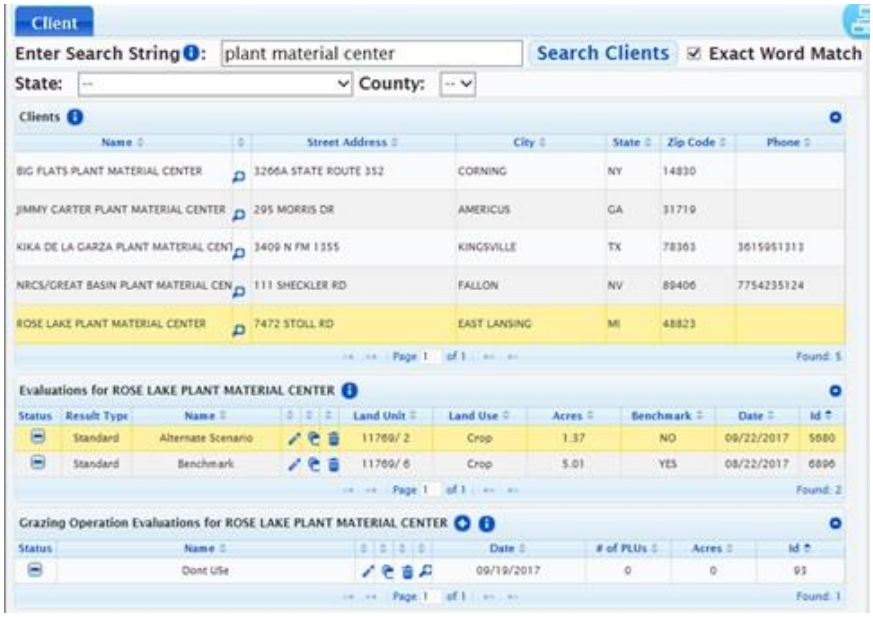
Benchmark: Yes/No flag identifying benchmark status

Date: Date evaluation performed (default date is the date evaluation was created but this may be modified by user to reflect the date the evaluation was performed in the field)

Id: RS identifying number for PLU

Evaluations Bar Walk-Through

Click on the desired evaluation to activate it.



Evaluations can be edited, copied and pasted to another PLU, or can be deleted. Select the appropriate button to edit, copy, or delete an evaluation.

Edit Evaluation: Feature allows user to edit name and date of evaluation

Copy Evaluation: Feature allows user to copy an evaluation to run alternate scenarios on the existing PLU or transfer the management system defined in this evaluation to a new PLU

Delete Evaluation: Permanently deletes evaluation

Copy Evaluation Feature Overview

The copy evaluation feature is available to copy an evaluation in order to evaluate and compare an alternative scenario or take the current management system that was evaluated and apply it to a different PLU. This feature allows copying to either the current client's PLU or any other PLU as identified by the user.

Any number of alternative evaluations or alternative scenarios may be attached to a PLU. Comparisons may be made against the benchmark evaluation or other alternative evaluations. In the evaluation results section, the user may directly compare two different evaluations on the same report.

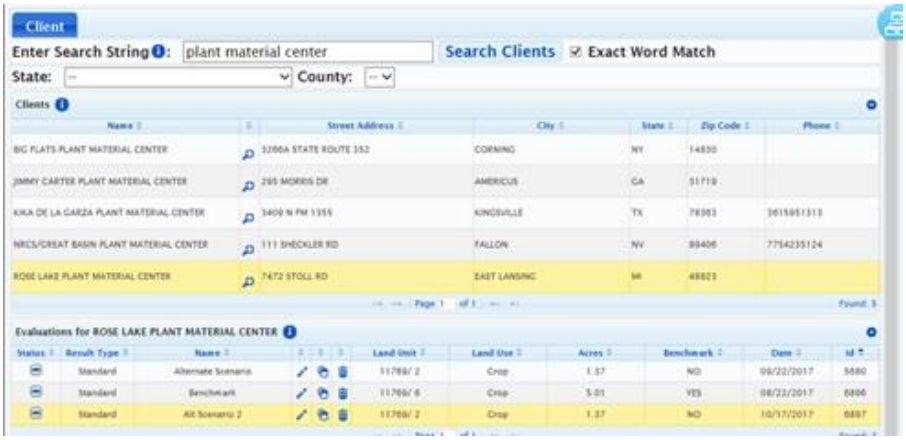
Copy an Evaluation to the Current PLU

1. Copy an evaluation by clicking the **Copy Evaluation** button .

2. This opens up an Evaluation dialogue. To create an alternative scenario on the existing plan unit, enter the **Name** of the Evaluation and edit the **Date** or **Benchmark** as appropriate. Click **Submit** when finished.

The tool defaults to copying an evaluation on the existing PLU.

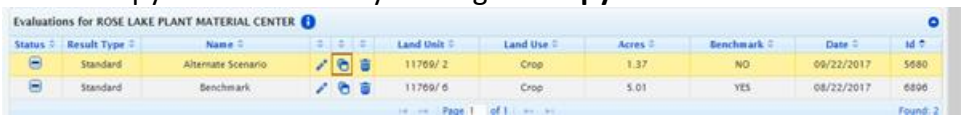
3. Click on the **Evaluation** to activate it.



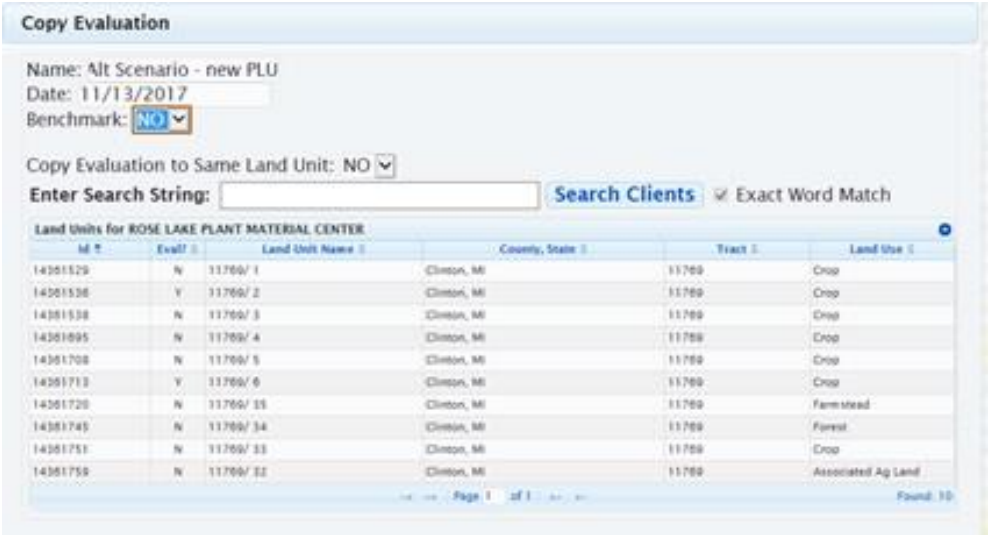
4. Click the **Edit Evaluation** button , make the appropriate changes and **Save**.

Copy an Evaluation to a Different PLU (Current Client or Different Clients)

1. Copy an evaluation by clicking the **Copy Evaluation** button .



2. This opens up an Evaluation dialogue. To create an alternative scenario on a different PLU, select No for **Copy Evaluation to Same Land Unit**

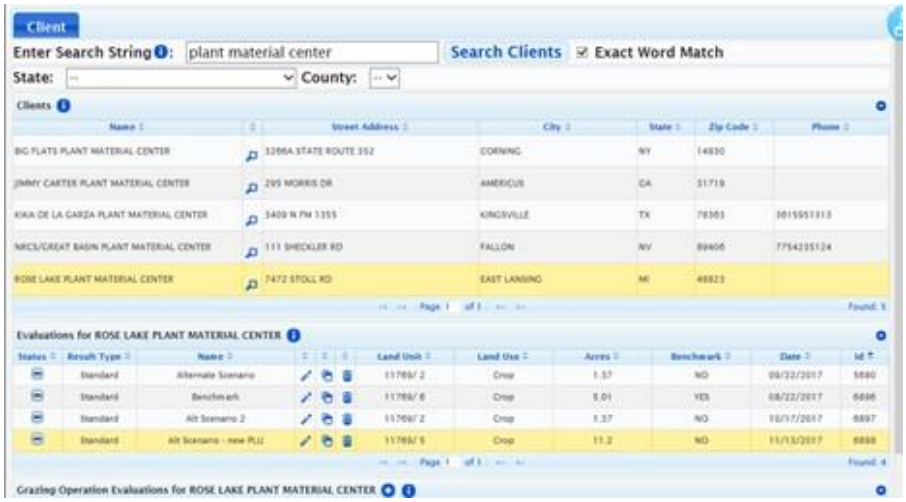


When selecting No for **Copy Evaluation to Same Land Unit**, the Evaluation dialogue box will display new land units under the existing client and the search feature to look for another client.

3. Select either the different PLU or search for a new client and select the target PLU for that client. Hit **Submit** when finished.

4. Enter the **Name** of the Evaluation and edit the **Date** or **Benchmark** as appropriate. Click **Submit** when finished.

5. Click on the **Evaluation** to activate it.

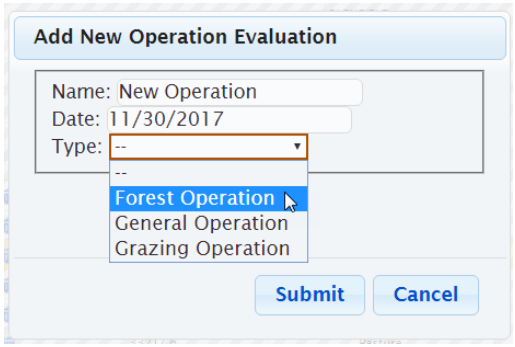


Click the **Edit Evaluation** button , make the appropriate changes and **Save**.

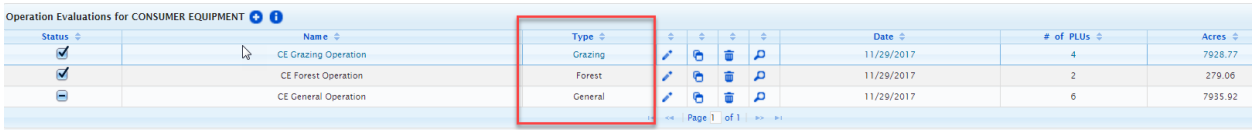
Operation Evaluations Overview

Resource Stewardship supports three types of Operation Evaluations: Grazing, Forest, and General. Operation Evaluations assess management activities typically incorporating multiple land units. Pasture, Range, Crop, and Forest land units can be added to Grazing Operation Evaluations. Forest land units can also be added to Forest Operation Evaluations and Crop, Pasture, Range, Forest and Farmstead evaluations can all be added to General Operation Evaluations.

Note: Operation Evaluation type (Forest, General, and Grazing) is selected when creating a new Operation Evaluation.



The type of operation evaluation will be denoted in the Operation Evaluations bar grid.



Once an Operation Evaluation has been created, it will appear in the Operation Evaluations bar list under the Search tab. The Operation Evaluations bar is where the user can select previous Operation Evaluations that have been started or completed for the client. The Operation Evaluations bar displays the name, type, date, # of PLUs, Acres and ID. The Operation Evaluations bar also allows the user to edit, copy, or delete evaluations.

Name: User defined

Type: Type of Operation Evaluation management system

Date: Date Operation Evaluation performed (default date is the date evaluation was created but this may be modified by user to reflect the date the evaluation was performed in the field)

# of PLUs: Number of PLUs applied to Operation Evaluation management system

Acres: Size of PLU

ID: RS identifying number

Grazing Operation Evaluations Overview

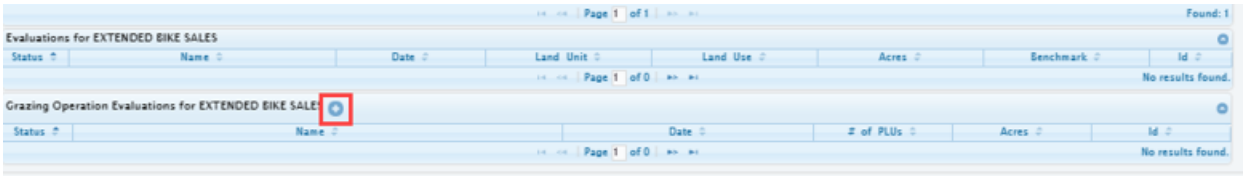
The Grazing Operation Evaluation is completed with the producer and highlights their grazing management decisions. The format of the Grazing Operation Evaluation closely follows the NRCS Conservation Practice 528-Prescribed Grazing. It contains questions related to the producer's objectives, general resource conditions, forage-animal balance, stocking rate, grazing plan/rotation, monitoring, contingency planning and where/how the producer obtains additional information to make improved grazing management decisions over time. The Grazing Operation Evaluation is only applicable for grazed land (pasture and range) evaluations.

The Grazing Operation Evaluation result can offer feedback on how to reach or improve Grazing Operation stewardship by comparing Grazing Operation Evaluations with alternatives. NRCS planners can work with producers to determine the best places to change management paradigms and achieve stewardship. NRCS acknowledges that a producer may be implementing all of the proper decisions and actions of a steward, but the land has not had enough time to respond. Conversely, the land may be in great shape, but the producer's management actions are not reflective of a land steward.

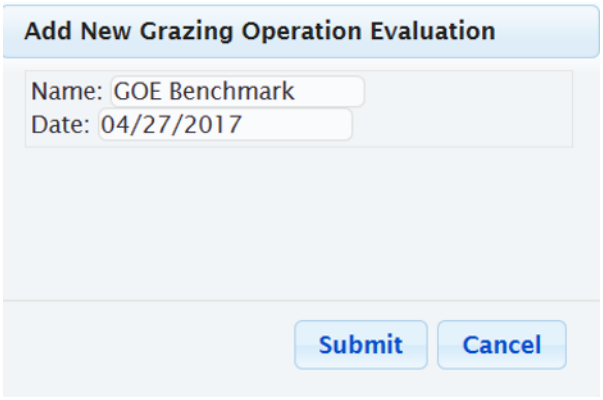
The Grazing Operation Evaluation is completed for the entire grazing operation (all grazed pasture and range units that are used to support one or more livestock herds). This also allows for incorporation of grazed cropland units based on the producer's management system. Depending on the operation, it may be useful or necessary to complete multiple Grazing Operation Evaluations – one for each herd type (e.g., cow/calf, stockers, sheep, etc.) or for different land ownerships where the producer's decision-making ability may be constrained.

Creating a New Operation Evaluation Walk-Through

1. From the Client Search page, scroll down to the Operation Evaluations section and click the **Add New Operation Evaluation** button.

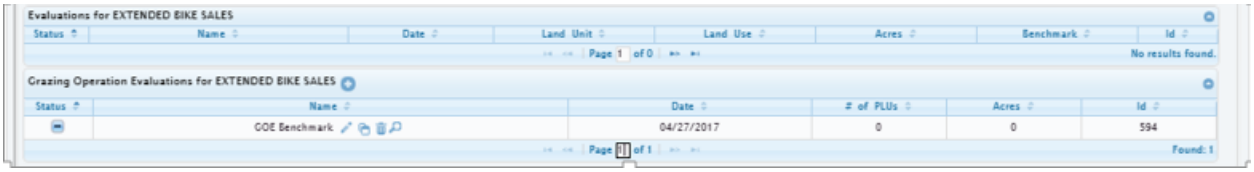


2. Enter a **Name** and **Date** for the Operation Evaluation. Click the **Submit** button.



The Operation Evaluation is added to the list under the Operation Evaluation bar.

3. Click on the **Operation Evaluation** to activate it.



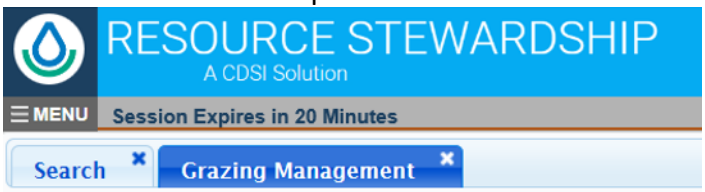
Operation Evaluations can be edited, copied and pasted to another PLU, or can be deleted. Select the appropriate button to edit, copy, or delete an evaluation.

Edit Evaluation: Feature allows user to edit name and date of evaluation

Copy Evaluation: Feature allows user to copy an evaluation to run alternate scenarios on the existing PLU or transfer the management system defined in this evaluation to a new PLU

Delete Evaluation: Permanently deletes evaluation

4. For Grazing Operation Evaluations, a Grazing Management tab is added. Click on the tab to answer the assessment questions.



See the Grazing Management help webpage (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?cid=nrcseprd1334273) for instructions on how to complete the Grazing Management section.

Copy Evaluation Feature

The copy evaluation feature  is available to copy an operation evaluation in order to evaluate and compare an alternative scenario.

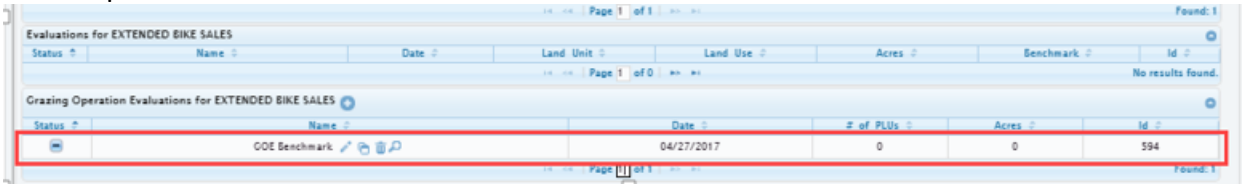
The steps to copy an Operation Evaluation are the same for copying an evaluation to a different PLU. See the Evaluation Bar help webpage (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?cid=nrcseprd1334468) for instructions on how to complete this step.

Grazing Management Overview

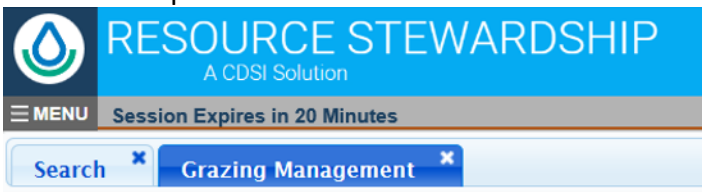
See the Operation Evaluations Bar help webpage (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?cid=nrcseprd1334469) for a detailed overview and walk-through of how to create a Grazing Operation Evaluation prior to filling out the Grazing Management information. The Grazing Management section highlights the producer's grazing management decisions and closely follows the NRCS Conservation Practice 528-Prescribed Grazing. This section contains 23 questions related to the producer's objectives, general resource conditions, forage-animal balance, stocking rate, grazing plan/rotation, monitoring, contingency planning and where/how the producer obtains additional information to make improved grazing management decisions over time.

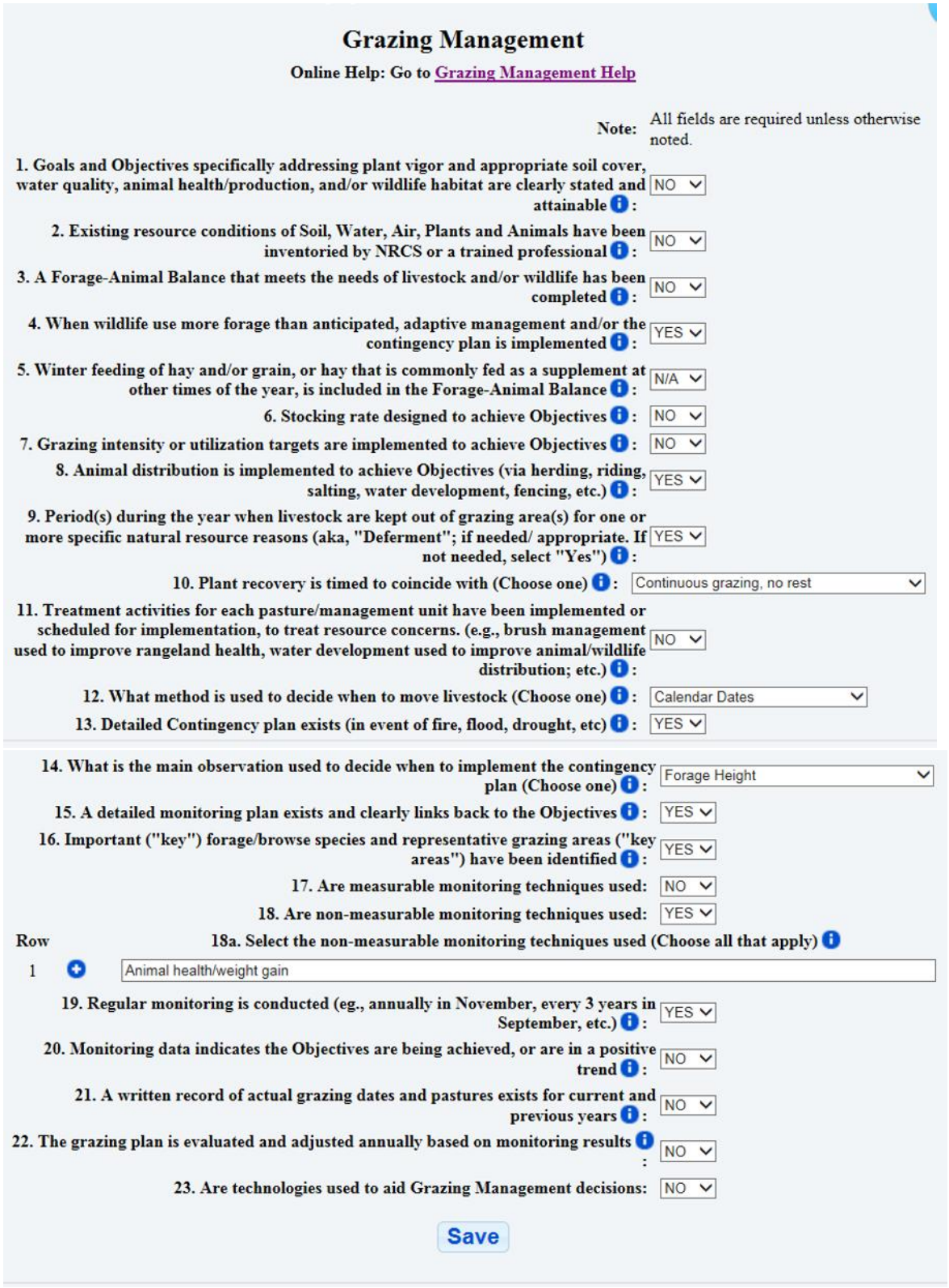
Grazing Management Walk-Through

1. After creating a Grazing Operation Evaluation in Resource Stewardship, select the evaluation in the Operation Evaluations Bar to activate it.



2. Click the **Grazing Management** tab to enter the information for the Grazing Management assessment questions.





Grazing Management

Online Help: Go to Grazing Management Help

Note: All fields are required unless otherwise noted.

1. Goals and Objectives specifically addressing plant vigor and appropriate soil cover, water quality, animal health/production, and/or wildlife habitat are clearly stated and attainable :	NO
2. Existing resource conditions of Soil, Water, Air, Plants and Animals have been inventoried by NRCS or a trained professional :	NO
3. A Forage-Animal Balance that meets the needs of livestock and/or wildlife has been completed :	NO
4. When wildlife use more forage than anticipated, adaptive management and/or the contingency plan is implemented :	YES
5. Winter feeding of hay and/or grain, or hay that is commonly fed as a supplement at other times of the year, is included in the Forage-Animal Balance :	N/A
6. Stocking rate designed to achieve Objectives :	NO
7. Grazing intensity or utilization targets are implemented to achieve Objectives :	NO
8. Animal distribution is implemented to achieve Objectives (via herding, riding, salting, water development, fencing, etc.) :	YES
9. Period(s) during the year when livestock are kept out of grazing area(s) for one or more specific natural resource reasons (aka, "Deferment"; if needed/ appropriate. If not needed, select "Yes") :	YES
10. Plant recovery is timed to coincide with (Choose one) :	Continuous grazing, no rest
11. Treatment activities for each pasture/management unit have been implemented or scheduled for implementation, to treat resource concerns. (e.g., brush management used to improve rangeland health, water development used to improve animal/wildlife distribution; etc.) :	NO
12. What method is used to decide when to move livestock (Choose one) :	Calendar Dates
13. Detailed Contingency plan exists (in event of fire, flood, drought, etc) :	YES
14. What is the main observation used to decide when to implement the contingency plan (Choose one) :	Forage Height
15. A detailed monitoring plan exists and clearly links back to the Objectives :	YES
16. Important ("key") forage/browse species and representative grazing areas ("key areas") have been identified :	YES
17. Are measurable monitoring techniques used:	NO
18. Are non-measurable monitoring techniques used:	YES

Row	18a. Select the non-measurable monitoring techniques used (Choose all that apply)
1	Animal health/weight gain

19. Regular monitoring is conducted (eg., annually in November, every 3 years in September, etc.) :	YES
20. Monitoring data indicates the Objectives are being achieved, or are in a positive trend :	NO
21. A written record of actual grazing dates and pastures exists for current and previous years :	NO
22. The grazing plan is evaluated and adjusted annually based on monitoring results :	NO
23. Are technologies used to aid Grazing Management decisions:	NO

Save

1. **Goals and Objectives specifically addressing plant vigor and appropriate soil cover, water quality, animal health/production, and/or wildlife habitat are clearly stated and attainable**: Yes/No

Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

2. **Existing resource conditions of Soil, Water, Air, Plants and Animals have been inventoried by NRCS or a trained professional**: Yes/No

   Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

3. **A Forage-Animal Balance that meets the needs of livestock and/or wildlife has been completed**: Yes/No

   Note: A forage-animal balance worksheet has been completed and includes a summary of how the available forage will be allocated. The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

4. **When wildlife use more forage than anticipated, adaptive management and/or the contingency plan is implemented**: Yes/No/NA

   Note: Wildlife utilization of forage can be difficult to predict. Wildlife numbers, migratory paths, seasonality, and duration/frequency in an area are highly variable. Do you adjust your grazing plan when wildlife use more forage than planned for?

5. **Winter feeding of hay and/or grain, or hay that is commonly fed as a supplement at other times of the year, is included in the Forage-Animal Balance**: Yes/No/NA

   Note: The completed Forage-Animal Balance includes anticipated Winter or Supplemental Feeding needs for livestock. The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

6. **Stocking rate designed to achieve objectives**: Yes/No

   Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

7. **Grazing intensity or utilization targets are implemented to achieve Objectives**: Yes/No

   Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

8. **Animal distribution is implemented to achieve Objectives (via herding, riding, salting, water development, fencing, etc)**: Yes/No

   Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

9. **Period(s) during the year when livestock are kept out of grazing area(s) for one or more specific natural resource reasons (aka, "Deferment"; if needed/appropriate. If not needed, select "Yes")**: Yes/No

   Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

10. **Plant recovery is timed to coincide with (Choose one)**: Select answer from drop-down (Active plant vegetative growth; Continuous grazing, no rest; Drinking water availability; Growth during boot stage through seed set; Other; Plant establishment period; Regrowth after fire; Regrowth after grazing; Wildlife habitat benefits)

    Note: Choose the predominant condition you use to determine the need and/or duration of plant rest/recovery.

11. **Treatment activities for each pasture/management unit have been implemented or scheduled for implementation to treat resource concerns (e.g. brush management used to improve rangeland health, water development used to improve animal/wildlife distribution; etc.)**: Yes/No

    Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

12. **What method is used to decide when to move livestock (choose one)**: Select answer from drop-down (Calendar Dates; Livestock Not Moved; Other; Percentage Utilization (%); Plant Height (inches); Plant Production (lbs/acre); Range Readiness; Rate of Plant Growth; Residual Dry Matter (lbs/acre); Stage of Plant Growth)

    Note: Select the main method used by the rancher to determine when livestock are moved from one pasture to another.

13. **Detailed contingency plan exists (in event of fire, flood, drought, etc)**: Yes/No

    Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

14. **What is the main observation used to decide when to implement the contingency plan (Choose one)**: Select answer from drop-down (Animal Performance/Weight Loss; Excessive Wildlife Utilization of Forage; Flooding; Forage Amount; Forage Height; Forecasted Drought; Insect Damage to Forage; Long term Snowpack; None; Prolonged Drought; Recent Rainfall too Low; Regulatory Issues; Shift in the Timing of Rainfall; Soil Moisture; Water Availability (livestock drinking); Wildlife Occurred)

    Note: Select the main method used by the rancher to determine when livestock are moved from one pasture to another.

15. **A detailed monitoring plan exists and clearly links back to the Objectives**: Yes/No

    Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

16. **Important ("key") forage/browse species and representative grazing areas ("key areas") have been identified**: Yes/No

    Note: The producer must be able to show written documentation supporting a Yes response.

17. **Are measurable monitoring techniques use**: Yes/No

    17a. **Select the measurable monitoring techniques used (Choose all that apply)**: Select answer(s) from drop-down (Actual use records (stocking); Basal Area; Canopy Cover; Density; Foliar Cover; Frequency; Ground Cover; Plant Height; Plant Production; Residual Dry Matter; Species Composition; Stockpiled Forage; Stubble Height; Utilization). Use the Add Row button to add additional techniques if applicable.

    Note: Select the main type(s) of measurable monitoring data the producer collects and uses to determine if the objectives of the grazing plan are being met. Producer must be able to show monitoring records.

18. **Are non-measurable monitoring techniques used**: Yes/No

    18a. **Select the non-measurable monitoring techniques used (Choose all that apply)**: Select answer(s) from drop-down (Animal health/weight gain; Animal stress/weight loss; Insect/Disease impacts; Insufficient forage remaining; Other; Photos; Plant color/stress; Plant vigor; Toxic plants affecting animals; Trend; Wildlife occurrence). Use the Add Row button to add additional techniques if applicable.

Note: Select the main type of non-measurable monitoring data the producer collects and uses to determine if the objectives of the grazing plan are being met. Producer must be able to show monitoring records.

19. **Regular monitoring is conducted (e.g., annually in November, every 3 years in September, etc.)**: Yes/No

    Note: Producer must be able to show monitoring records.

20. **Monitoring data indicates that Objectives are being achieved, or are in a positive trend**: Yes/No

    Note: Producer must be able to show monitoring records.

21. **A written record of actual grazing dates and pastures exists for current and previous years**: Yes/No

    Note: Producer must be able to show monitoring records.

22. **The grazing plan is evaluated and adjusted annually based on monitoring results**: Yes/No

    Note: Producer must be able to show monitoring records.

23. **Are technologies used to aid Grazing Management decisions**: Yes/No

    23a. **Select the technologies used to aid in Grazing Management decisions (choose all that apply):** Select answer(s) from drop-down (Change animal breeding season; Change kind or class of animal; Extension/Consultant Recommendations; Forage/Feed Testing; Manure Appearance; NRCS Recommendations; Nutbal). Use the Add Row button  to add additional answers if applicable.

    Note: Select the method(s) the producer uses to improve their management decisions related to grazing management, resource conservation and/or animal performance.

5. After all information has been entered click **Save**.

Management Points are returned for the following:

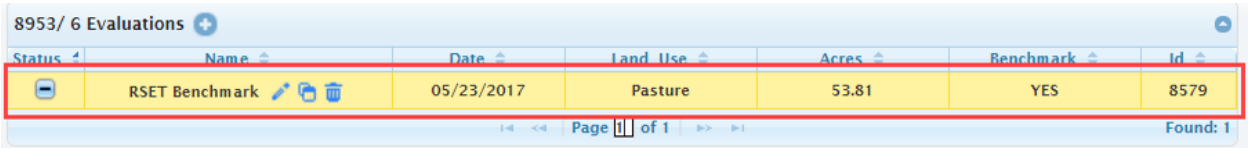
Grazing Management

Pasture Inventory Overview

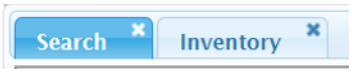
After identifying the client and planned land unit (PLU), the next step is to complete the Pasture Inventory information. The inventory information entered will provide resultant Factor and Threshold values.

Pasture Inventory Walk-Through

1. From the **Search** bar, select the desired evaluation for the client.

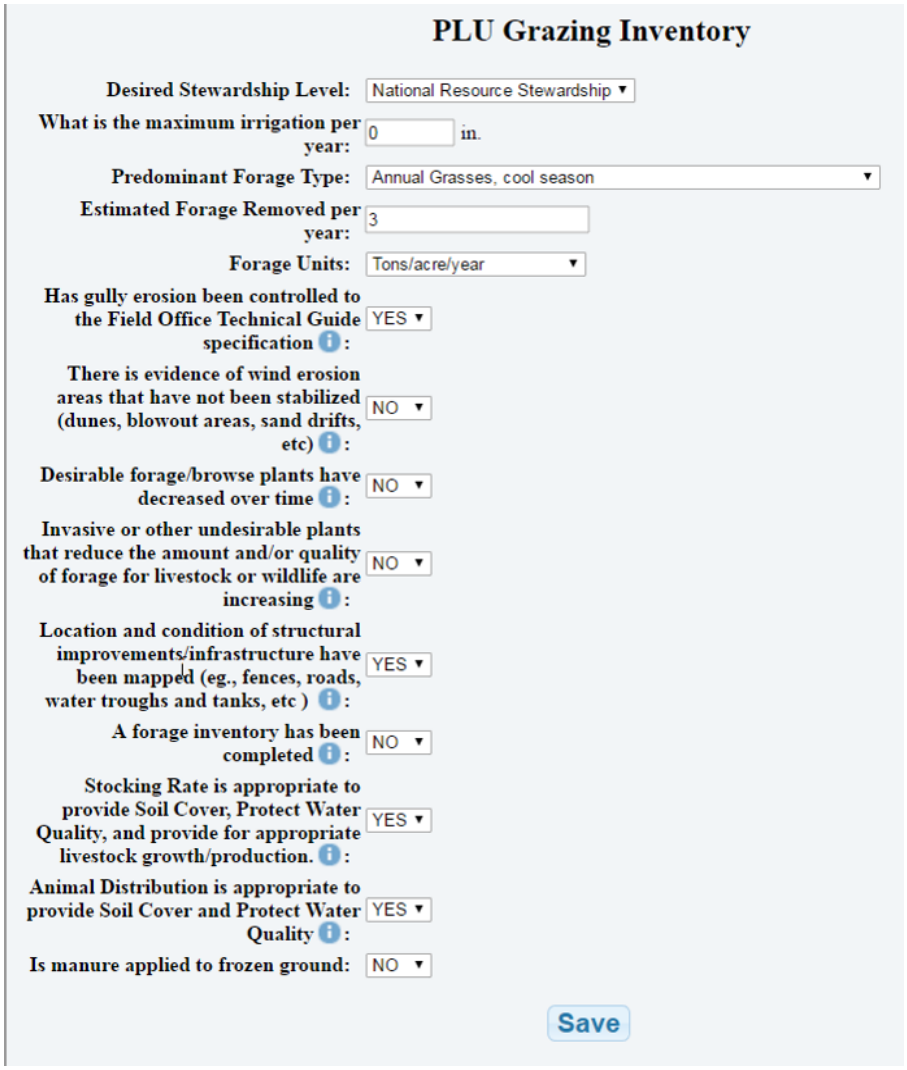


2. Click on the **Inventory** tab or select Inventory on the **Roadmap** button. (Close the Roadmap by clicking on the **Roadmap** button.)



3. Enter the PLU Grazing Inventory information and click the **Save** button.

   Note: If the value field is red it is required.



Desired Stewardship Level: National Resource Stewardship

What is the maximum irrigation per year: Numeric value (in inches)

Predominant Forage Type: Select answer from drop-down

Estimated Forage Removed per year: Numeric value (select measuring unit in following question)

Forage Units: Select answer from drop-down

Has gully erosion been controlled to the Field Office Technical Guide specification: Yes/No

There is evidence of wind erosion areas that have not been stabilized (dunes, blowout areas, sand drifts, etc): Yes/No

Desirable forage/browse plants have decreased over time: Yes/No

Invasive or other undesirable plants that reduce the amount and/or quality of forage for livestock or wildlife are increasing: Yes/No

Location and condition of structural improvements/infrastructure have been mapped (e.g., fences, roads, water troughs and tanks, etc.): Yes/No

A forage inventory has been completed: Yes/No

Stocking Rate is appropriate to provide Soil Cover, Protect Water Quality, and provide for appropriate livestock growth/production: Yes/No

Animal Distribution is appropriate to provide Soil Cover and Protect Water Quality: Yes/No

Is manure applied to frozen ground: Yes/No

Resultant Factor and Threshold values are displayed.

Factor values determined:

- Soil Leaching Potential
- Soil Runoff Potential
- R Factor

Threshold values determined:

- Sediment in Surface Water
- Total Phosphorus Loss
- Soluble Phosphorus Loss
- Surface Nitrogen Loss
- Subsurface Nitrogen Loss
- Pesticide Management (Leaching)
- Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)
- Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)
- Pesticide Management (Drift)
- Land Health

Management Points are displayed for the following:

- PLU Grazing Inventory
- Residue – Sediment in Surface Water
- Residue – Total Phosphorus Loss

Residue – Surface Nitrogen Loss
Residue – Subsurface Nitrogen Loss
Residue – Pesticide Management (Leaching)
Residue – Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)
Residue – Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)
Residue – Pesticide Management (Drift)
Winter Cover – Sediment in Surface Water
Winter Cover – Total Phosphorus Loss
Winter Cover – Surface Nitrogen Loss
Winter Cover – Subsurface Nitrogen Loss
Winter Cover – Pesticide Management (Leaching)
Winter Cover – Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)
Winter Cover – Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)
Winter Cover – Pesticide Management (Drift)
Nutrient Management – Surface Nitrogen Loss
Nutrient Management – Subsurface Nitrogen Loss
Nutrient Management – Total Phosphorus Loss
Nutrient Management – Soluble Phosphorus Loss

The Aquatic Habitat, Terrestrial Habitat, IPM, WINPST, Conservation Practices and Pasture Condition Score tabs are added.

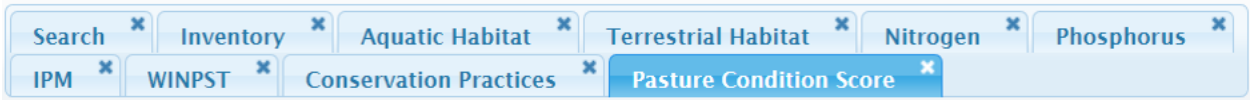
Navigate through the assessment by clicking on the appropriate tab or by clicking on the **Roadmap** button and choosing the appropriate assessment.

Pasture Condition Score Overview

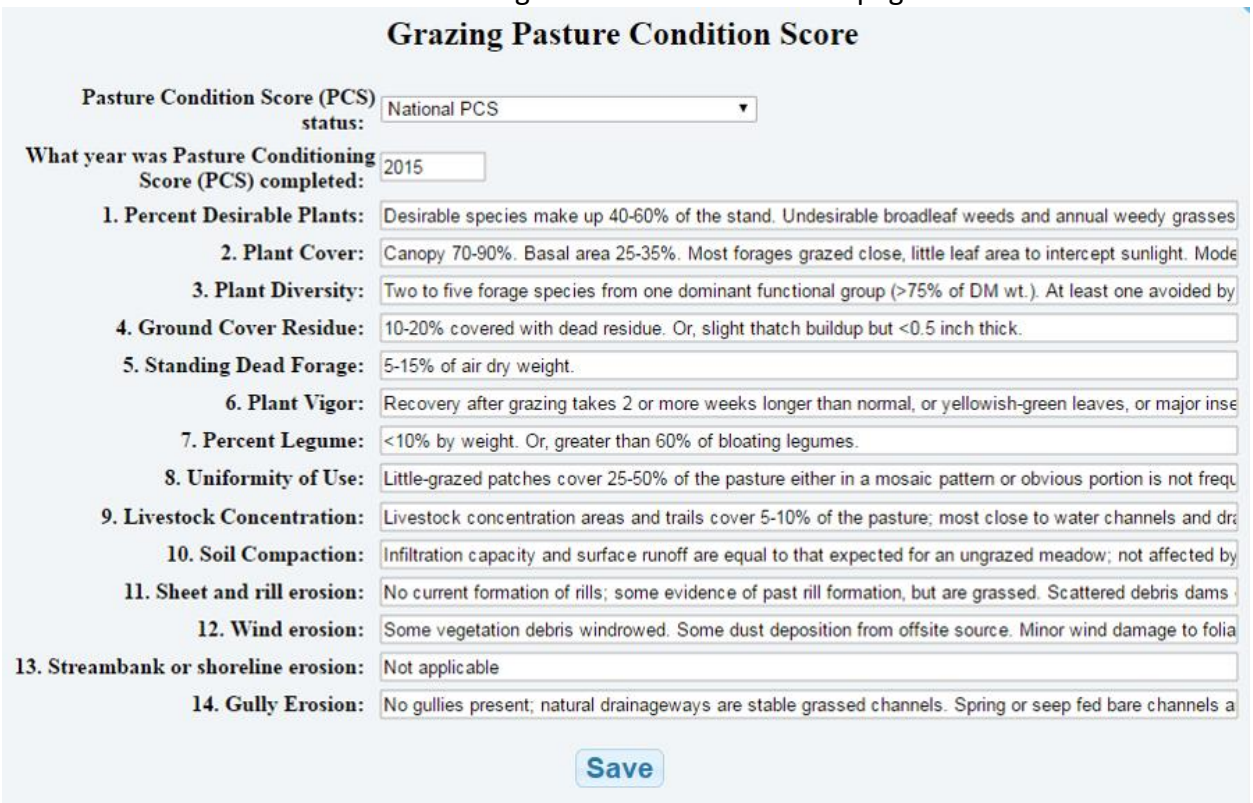
Pasture condition scoring can be useful in deciding when to move livestock or planning other management actions. NRCS has a Guide to Pasture Condition Scoring (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1044239.pdf) and a Pasture Condition Scoresheet (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1044237.pdf) that provide overall agency guidance on how to score pasture condition. Information from the scoresheet will be entered for the questions below.

Pasture Condition Score Walk-Through

1. Click the **Pasture Condition Score** tab or select Pasture Condition Score in the **Roadmap**



2. Enter the information on the Grazing Pasture Condition Score page and click the **Save**.



Pasture Condition Score (PCS) status: Select answer from drop-down

What year was Pasture Conditioning Score (PCS) completed: 4 digit year value

1. **Percent Desirable Plants**: Select answer from drop-down
2. **Plant Cover**: Select answer from drop-down
3. **Plant Diversity**: Select answer from drop-down
4. **Ground Cover Residue**: Select answer from drop-down
5. **Standing Dead Forage**: Select answer from drop-down
6. **Plant Vigor**: Select answer from drop-down
7. **Percent Legume**: Select answer from drop-down
8. **Uniformity of Use**: Select answer from drop-down
9. **Livestock Concentration**: Select answer from drop-down
10. **Soil Compaction**: Select answer from drop-down
11. **Sheet and rill erosion**: Select answer from drop-down
12. **Wind Erosion**: Select answer from drop-down
13. **Streambank or shoreline erosion**: Select answer from drop-down
14. **Gully erosion**: Select answer from drop-down

Management Points are displayed for the following:

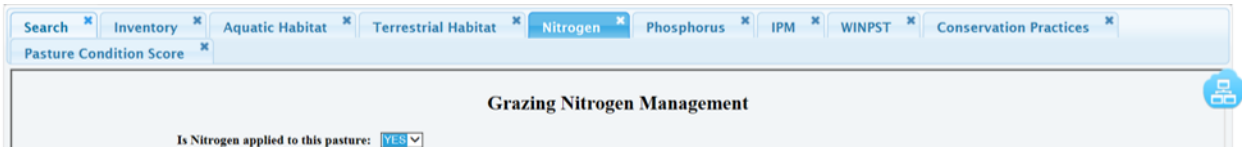
Pasture Management Score

Nitrogen Overview

The Nitrogen section in Resource Stewardship is only completed for Crop and Pasture evaluations. Both nitrogen and phosphorus comprise the nutrient management information captured in Resource Stewardship.

Pasture Nitrogen Walk-Through

1. Open the **Roadmap** and select Nitrogen or click on the **Nitrogen** tab at the top of the page.



2. Answer the questions for Grazing Nitrogen Management and click **Save**.

Is Nitrogen applied to this pasture: Yes/No

Amount of Nitrogen applied: Amount lbs/acre

First Nitrogen application relative to active growing season: Select answer from drop down

Split Application: Yes/No

Nitrogen application method: Select answer from drop-down

A Nitrogen Supplied/Removed Ratio will be established and Management Points will be returned for the following:

Nutrient Management – Subsurface Nitrogen Loss
Nutrient Management – Surface Nitrogen Loss

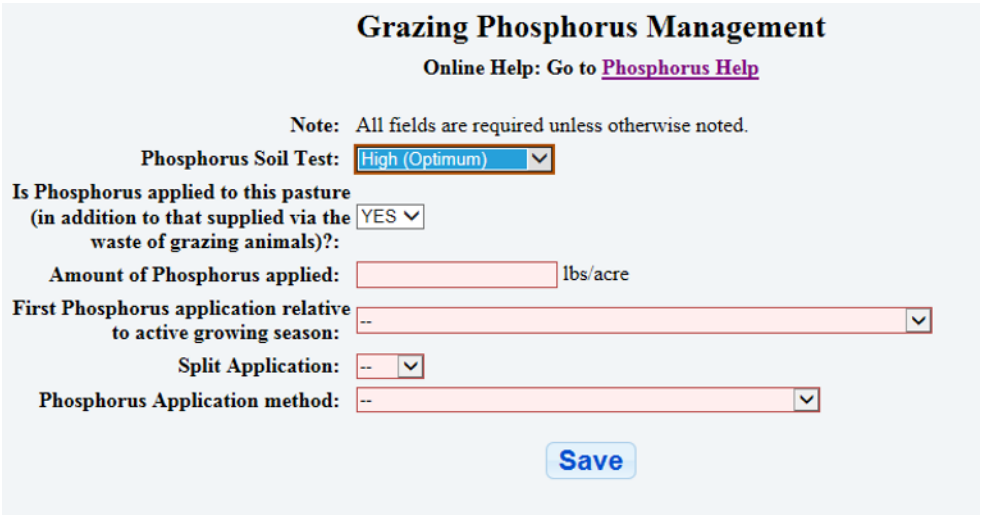
Phosphorus Overview

Like Nitrogen, the Phosphorus section in Resource Stewardship is only completed for Crop and Pasture evaluations. Both Nitrogen and Phosphorus comprise the nutrient management information and are captured at the crop rotation level for Crop evaluations.

Pasture Phosphorus Walk-Through

1. Click on the **Phosphorus** tab or select Phosphorus in the **Roadmap** .

2. Answer the questions for Grazing Phosphorus Management and click **Save**.



Phosphorus Soil Test: Select answer from drop-down

Is Phosphorus applied to this pasture (in addition to that supplied via the waste of grazing animals)?: Yes/No (If No, skip remaining questions)

Amount of Phosphorus applied: Numeric value in lbs/acre. Must be an integer from 0 to 99999

First Phosphorus application relative to active growing season: Select answer from drop-down

Split Application: Yes/No

Is first application <=25lbs N/acre: Yes/No

Phosphorus Application Method: Select answer from drop-down

A Phosphorus Supplied/Removed Ratio will be established and Management Points will be returned for the following:

Nutrient Management – Total Phosphorus Loss
Nutrient Management – Soluble Phosphorus Loss

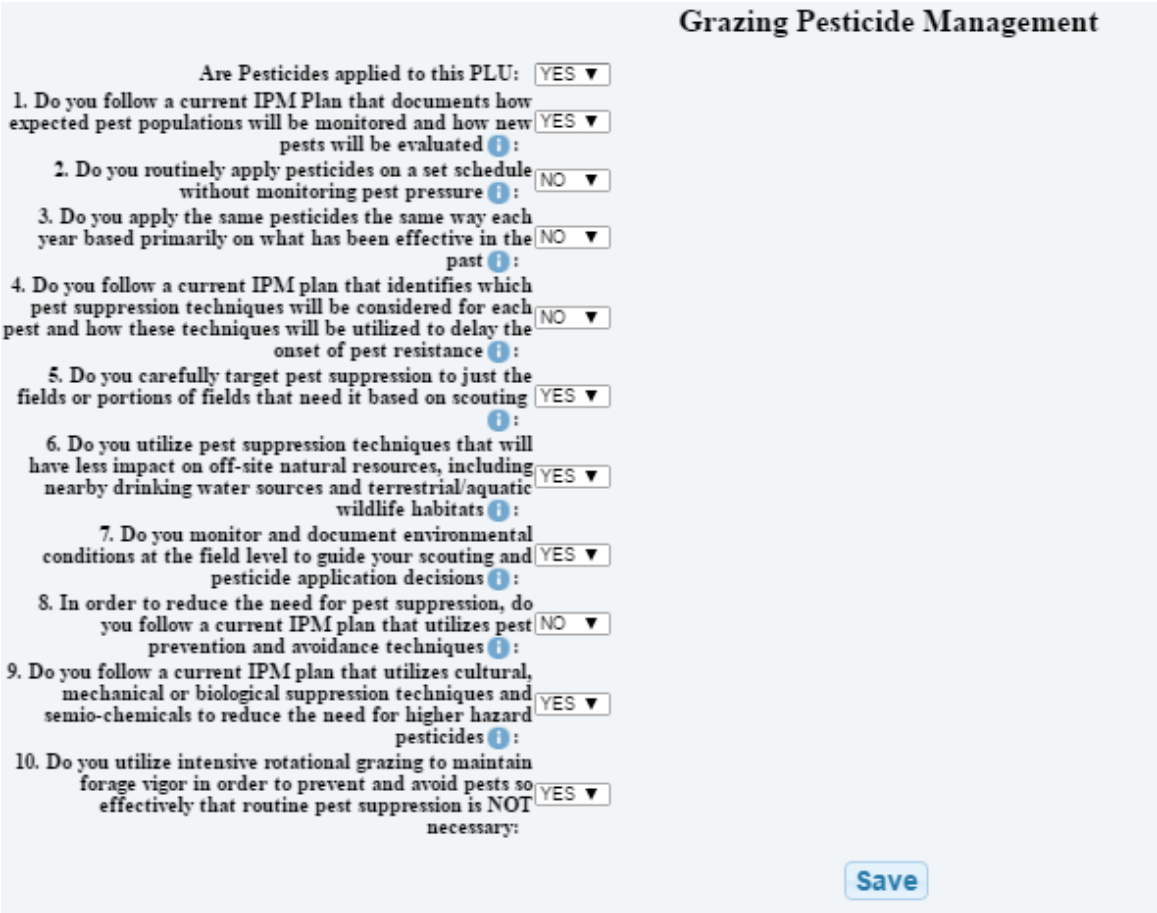
IPM Overview

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) section is the same for Pasture and Range evaluations. The interpretation of “IPM Plan” for Pasture and Range evaluations in Resource Stewardship simply refers to any type of plan, not necessarily an NRCS-developed IPM plan like RSET Cropland evaluation requires. If the producer has a basic plan/approach for applying pesticides on the land unit credit will be given for having an “IPM plan” for purposes of Resource Stewardship on grazing lands.

IPM Walk-Through

1. Click the Integrated Pest Management **(IPM)** tab or select IPM in the **Roadmap** **.**

2. Answer Yes/No to **Are Pesticides applied to this PLU**. If No, skip the remaining IPM questions. If Yes, answer the following questions.



1. **Do you follow a current IPM plan that documents how expected pest populations will be monitored and how any new pests will be evaluated?:** Yes/No

2. **Do you routinely apply pesticides on a set schedule without monitoring pest pressure?:** Yes/No

3. **Do you apply the same pesticides the same way each year based primarily on what has been effective in the past?:** Yes/No

4. **Do you follow a current IPM plan that identifies which pest suppression techniques will be considered for each pest and how these techniques will be utilized to delay the onset of pest resistance?:** Yes/No

5. **Do you carefully target pest suppression to just the fields or portions of field that need it based on scouting?**: Yes/No

6. **Do you utilize pest suppression techniques that will have less impact on off-site natural resources, including nearby drinking water sources and terrestrial/aquatic wildlife habitats:** Yes/No

7. **Do you monitor and document environmental conditions at the field level to guide**

your scouting and pesticide application decisions?: Yes/No

8. **In order to reduce the need for pest suppression, do you follow a current IPM plan that utilizes pest prevention or avoidance techniques?:** Yes/No

9. **Do you follow a current IPM plan that utilizes cultural, mechanical, or biological suppression techniques and semio-chemicals to reduce the need for higher-hazard pesticides?:** Yes/No

10. **Do you utilize intensive rotational grazing to maintain forage vigor in order to prevent and avoid pests so effectively that routine pest suppression is NOT necessary?:** Yes/No

3. Click **Save**.

Management Points are displayed for the following:

IPM Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)

IPM Pesticide Management (Drift)

IPM Pesticide management (Leaching)

IPM Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)

WINPST Online Overview

WINPST is an environmental risk screening tool for pesticides. It can be used to evaluate potential pesticides that move with water or eroded soil/organic matter and affect non-targeted organisms.

WINPST data that was captured in RSET prior to September 2017 can be found in the Legacy (Manual) tab. The Legacy (Manual) tab also allows the manual entry of WINPST data captured outside of RSET.

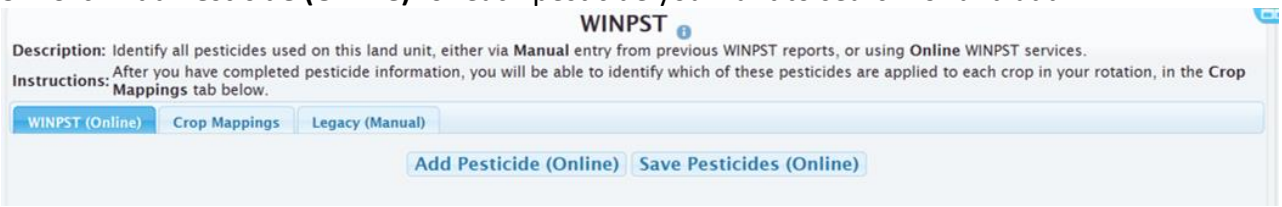
For Crop evaluations, all probable pesticides should be selected in WINPST for each crop in the rotation. The same pesticide may be used differently on the same crop at different times, so a given pesticide may need to be selected in WINPST more than once with different application parameters, even when WINPST reports are developed for each crop.

WINPST Online Walk-Through

1. Select the **WINPST** tab or select WINPST on the **Roadmap**  .

2. Select **WINPST (Online)**

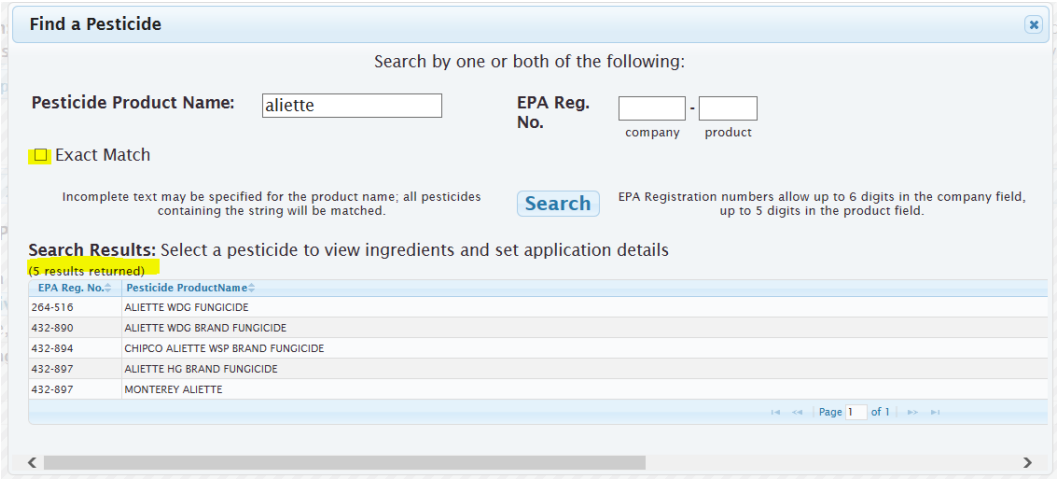
3. Click **Add Pesticide (Online)** for each pesticide you want to search for and add.



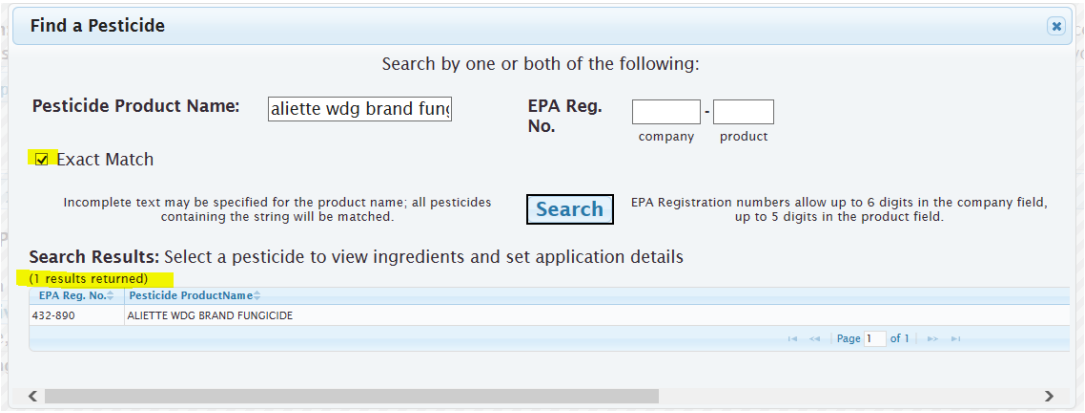
4. Search for the pesticides in the EPA database.

   Enter all or part of a pesticide product name. You can also enter a company or product code (or both). A complete EPA registration number for the company and/or product code must be entered (entering 52 will not match products with the code 523-445).

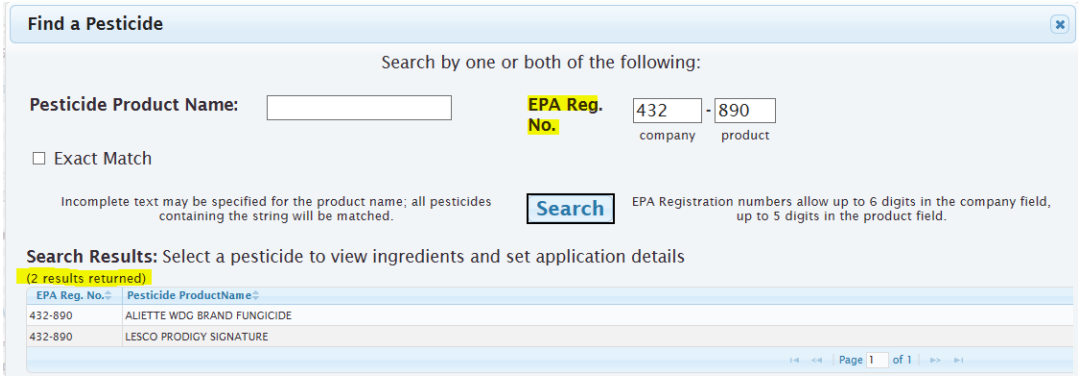
Below shows the search results of a partial match of a pesticide product name.



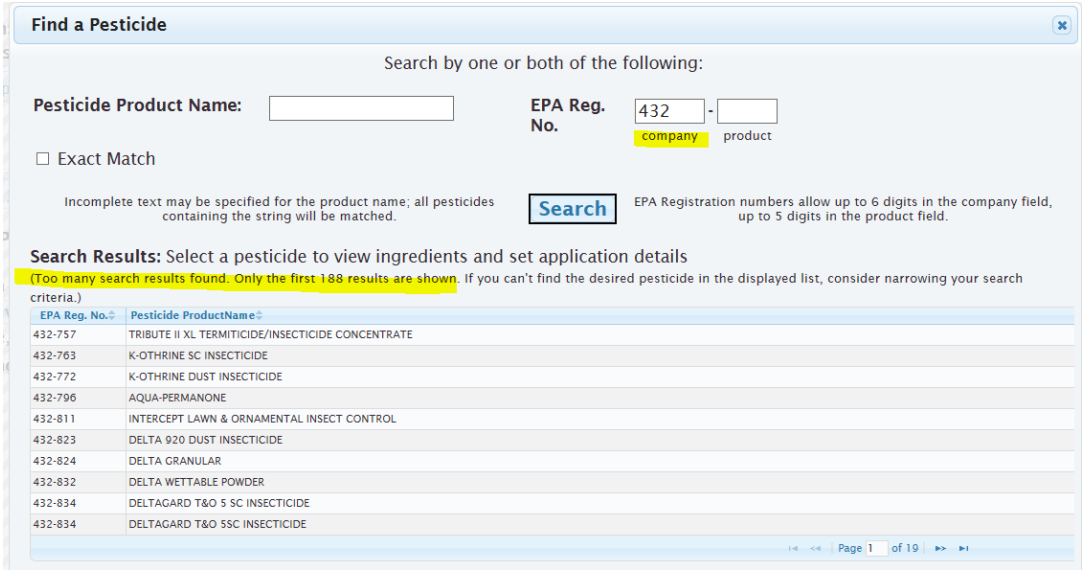
Below shows the results for the exact match of a pesticide product name (in general, fewer results will be returned when **Exact Match** is selected for the search).



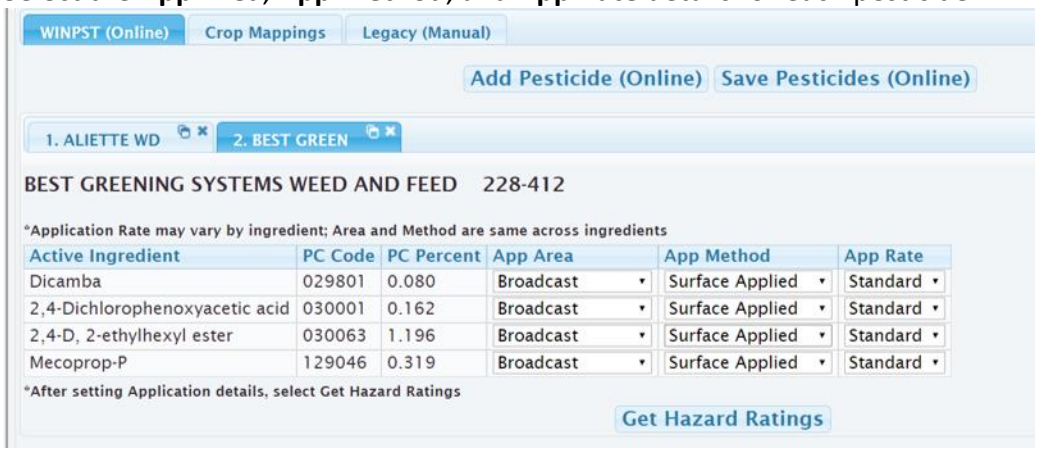
Below shows the results of a complete match (company 3-digit number and product 3-digit number) of an EPA registration number. Note that multiple products can be returned for the same registration number.



Below shows the results for a company match by EPA registration number (in general, more results will be returned if a 3-digit product number is not also included in the search).



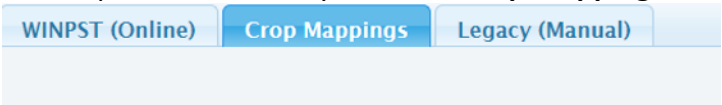
5. Select the **App Area**, **App Method**, and **App Rate** details for each pesticide.



6. Click **Get Hazard Ratings** and click **Save Pesticides (Online)** for each Pesticide tab added. (Repeat Steps 1 -6 for each additional pesticide.)

Note: The application rate can vary between active ingredients. While active ingredient Hazard Ratings are shown, only the pesticide product level ratings are used in RS.

7. For Crop evaluations only, click the **Crop Mappings** tab.



8. Select which pesticides apply to each crop, click **I Have Finished Identifying The Pesticides Applied To This Crop** for both crops, and then select **Save Pesticides Applied to Each Crop.**

Management Points are returned for the following:

WINPST – Pesticide Management (Leaching)
WINPST – Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)
WINPST – Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)

WINPST Manual Entry Overview

To enter WINPST data manually, look through all of the ratings in the Soil/Pesticide Interaction Hazard Rating Report to identify the worst case (highest risk) result in each category (Leaching – Human, Leaching - Fish, Solution Runoff – Human, Solution Runoff – Fish, and Adsorbed Runoff – Fish) for all planned pesticides for a crop on all planned land unit (PLU) soils. Circle each of those worst case ratings on the WINPST report for documentation and then select those five worst case ratings in RS in the WINPST data entry screen. Note that the highest hazard ratings for each of the five categories may be different for different soils and/or different pesticides.

> Note: Selecting pesticides in WINPST by product name can sometimes select multiple active ingredients. Each active ingredient has its own unique hazard rating, so a product should be represented by the worst case (highest risk) rating for each category for all of the product's active ingredients.

Ratings reported in WINPST:

Very Low (V)
Low (L)
Intermediate (I)
High (H)
eXtra High (X)

Soil / Pesticide Interaction Loss Potential and Hazard Rating Report

LEGEND

X -- eXtra high
H -- High
I -- Intermediate
L -- Low
V -- Very low

Conditions that affect ratings:

(none)	-- Broadcast application (default); applied to more than 1/2 the field
b	-- Banded application; applied to 1/2 the field or less
p	-- Spot application; applied to 1/10th of the field or less
(none)	-- Surface applied (default); applied to the soil surface
i	-- Soil incorporated; with light tillage or irrigation
f	-- Foliar application; directed spray at nearly full crop/weed canopy
(none)	-- Standard application rate (default); greater than 1/4 lb/acre
l	-- Low rate of application; 1/10 to 1/4 lb/acre
	-- Ultra Low rate of application; 1/10 lb/acre or less
m	-- There are surface connected macropores (cracks) that go at least 24 inches deep.
w	-- The high water table comes within 24" of the surface during the growing season.
s	-- The field slope is greater than 15%.
<none>	-- Default condition for all climates that have rainfall/irrigation after pesticide application
<dry>	-- Exception for arid climates that have a low probability of rainfall and no irrigation afer pesticide application

SPISP II I-Ratings:

Leaching	-- Soil / Pesticide Interaction Leaching Potential
Solution	-- Soil / Pesticide Interaction Solution Runoff Potential
Adsorbed	-- Soil / Pesticide Interaction Adsorbed Runoff Potential

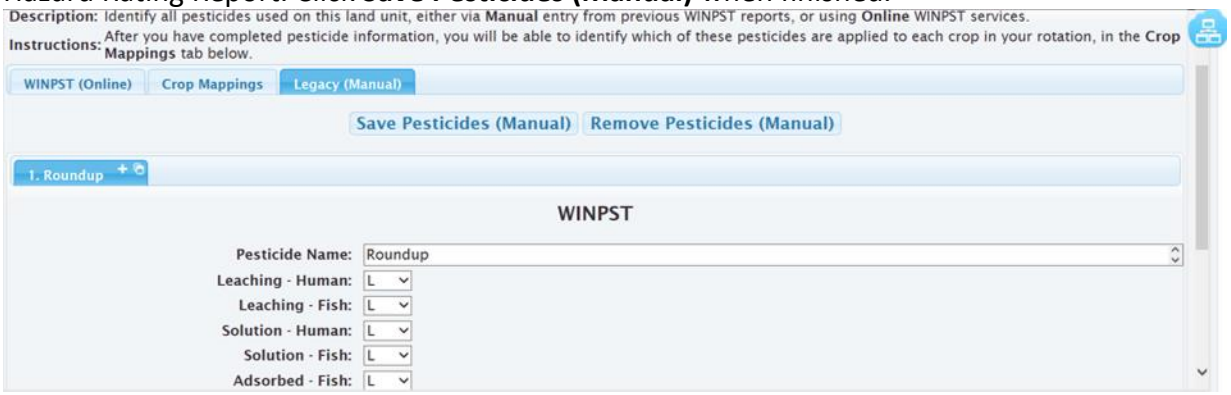
WINPST Manual Entry Walk-Through (Crop Example)

This example uses Roundup, Trizmet II and Status. The below table shows their hazard ratings gathered from the Soil/Pesticide Interaction Hazard Rating Report.

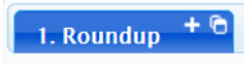
Pesticide Name	Roundup	Trizmet II	Status
Leaching – Human	Low (L)	High (H)	Low (L)
Leaching – Fish	Low (L)	Intermediate (I)	Low (L)
Solution Runoff – Human	Low (L)	High (H)	Very Low (V)
Solution Runoff – Human	Low (L)	Intermediate (I)	Very Low (V)
Adsorbed Runoff – Fish	Low (L)	Low (L)	Very Low (V)

1. Click on the **WINPST** tab or select WINPST on the **Roadmap** .

2. On the **Legacy (Manual)** tab, type the Pesticide Name (this example uses Roundup) and enter the pesticide Hazard Ratings gathered from the Soil/Pesticide Interaction Hazard Rating Report. Click **Save Pesticides (Manual)** when finished.



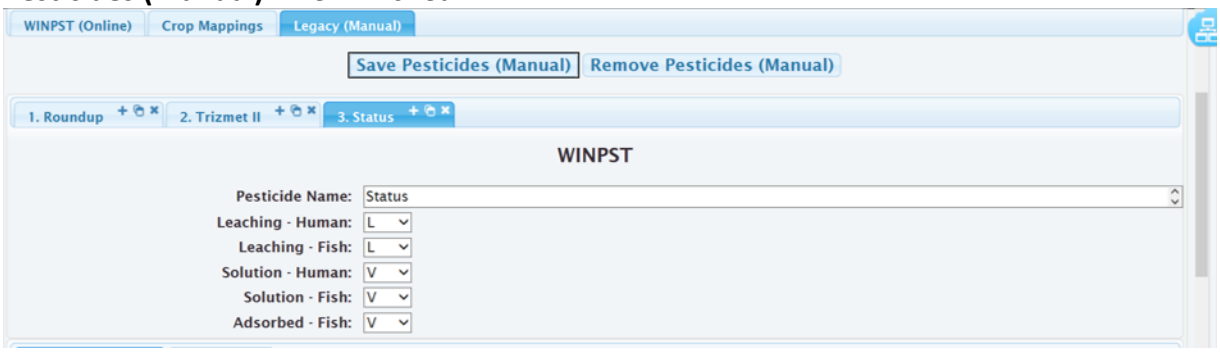
3. On the tab showing the first pesticide you entered, click the **Add tab** or **Copy** feature to add additional pesticides. The Copy feature allows you to copy over pesticide information and make any necessary edits to the pesticide name or hazard ratings.



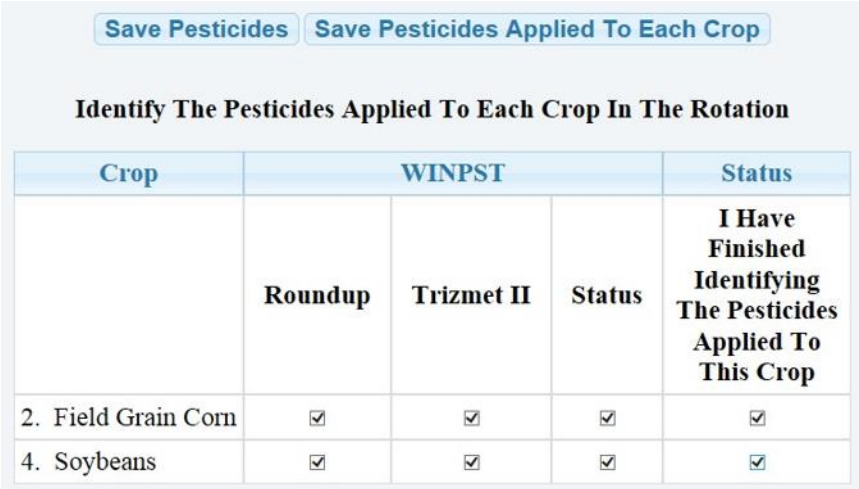
4. On Tab 2, enter the pesticide name and Hazard Ratings for **Trizmet II** and click **Save Pesticides (Manual)** when finished.

5. Click the **Add tab** or **Copy** button.

6. On Tab 3, enter the pesticide name and Hazard Ratings for **Status** and click **Save Pesticides (Manual)** when finished.



7. Click **Crop Mappings** and select which pesticides are applied to each crop in the rotation. A WINPST survey is loaded. Check all the applicable radio buttons for the pesticides applied. Click the radio buttons for **I Have Finished Identifying The Pesticides Applied To This Crop** for both crops. Click the **Save Pesticides Applied To Each Crop** button.



Crop	WINPST			Status
	Roundup	Trizmet II	Status	I Have Finished Identifying The Pesticides Applied To This Crop
2. Field Grain Corn	☑	☑	☑	☑
4. Soybeans	☑	☑	☑	☑

Management Points are returned for the following:

WINPST – Pesticide Management (Leaching)

WINPST – Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)
WINPST – Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)

WINPST Manual Entry Walk-Through (Pasture and Range Example)

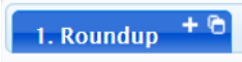
This example uses Roundup and Weedmaster pesticides.

Pesticide Name	Roundup	Weedmaster
Leaching – Human	Very Low (V)	Very Low (V)
Leaching – Fish	Very Low (V)	Very Low (V)
Solution Runoff – Human	Low (L)	Very Low (V)
Solution Runoff – Human	Low (L)	Low (L)
Adsorbed Runoff – Fish	Low (L)	Very Low (V)

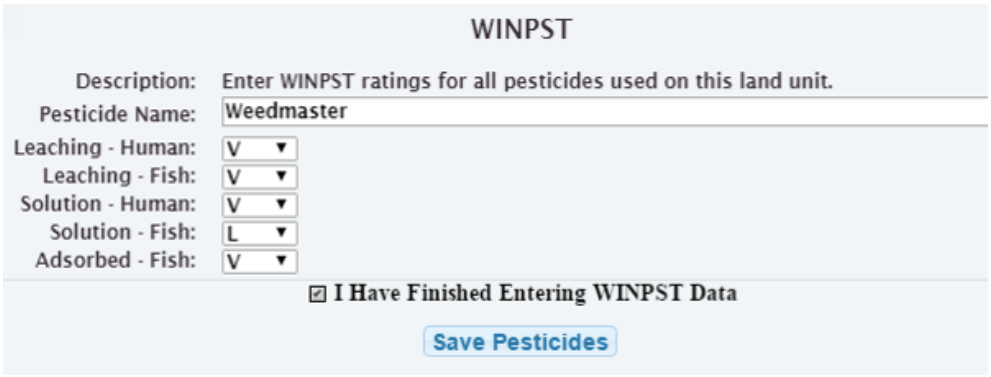
1. Click on the **WINPST** tab or select WINPST on the **Roadmap**  .

2. On the **Legacy (Manual)** tab, type the Pesticide Name (this example uses Roundup) and enter the pesticide Hazard Ratings gathered from the Soil/Pesticide Interaction Hazard Rating Report. Click **Save Pesticides (Manual)** when finished.

3. On the tab showing the first pesticide you entered, click the **Add tab** or **Copy** feature to add additional pesticides. The Copy feature allows you to copy over pesticide information and make any necessary edits to the pesticide name or hazard ratings.



4. On Tab 2, enter the Pesticide name and Hazard Ratings information for **Weedmaster**. Since this is the last chemical added in this example, click the **I Have Finished Entering WINPST Data** radio button when finished and click **Save Pesticides**.



Management Points are returned for the following:

WINPST – Pesticide Management (Leaching)

WINPST – Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)

WINPST – Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)

Conservation Practices Overview

Information for the Conservation Practices and Management Techniques (CPMT) section is gathered from the client. CMPTs can be chosen from the open-ended list in Resource Stewardship based on what has been implemented on the Planned Land Unit (PLU). For Crop evaluations, these CPMTs are identified at the crop rotation level.

Conservation Practices Walk-Through

1. Click the **Conservation Practices** tab or on the **Roadmap** .

2. Answer **Yes** to "Does the PLU have any resident conservation practices which will impact its conservation stewardship" (if applicable).

3. Enter the conservation practice name or practice number. This example uses **Conservation Crop Rotation (328)** as the first conservation practice applied. **328** can also be entered for the conservation practice number.

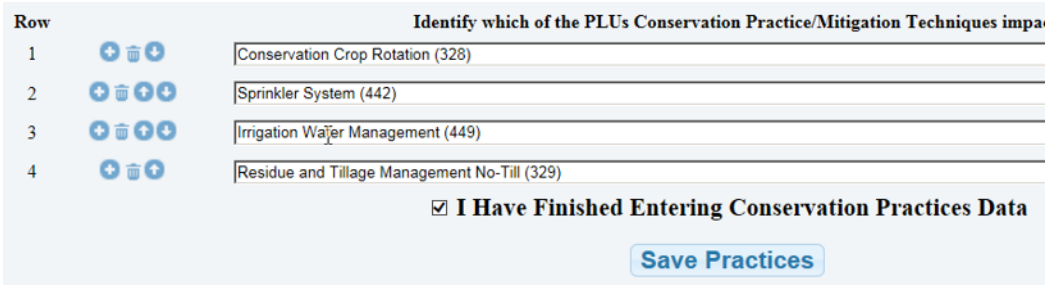
4. To enter another practice click the **Add Row** button.

To add, delete or to reorder the rows use the appropriate button. The order of conservation practices has no effect on the results.

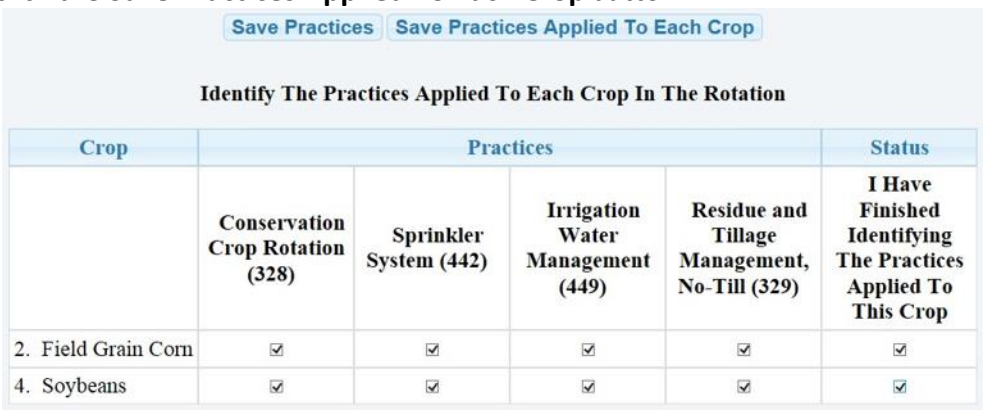
- Add Row
- Delete Row
- Move Row Up
- Move Row Down

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for each conservation practice you wish to enter. This example uses **Sprinkler System (442)**, **Irrigation Water Management (449)**, **Residue and Tillage Management No-Till (329)**.

6. After all practices have been entered, click the "**I Have Finished Entering Conservation Practices**" radio button and **Save**.



7. For Crop evaluations, select which conservation practices are applied to each crop in the rotation. **Check all** the radio buttons for the applicable practices. For the status, click the radio buttons for **"I Have Finished Identifying The Practices Applied To This Crop"** and click the **Save Practices Applied To Each Crop** button.



Crop	Practices				Status
	Conservation Crop Rotation (328)	Sprinkler System (442)	Irrigation Water Management (449)	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329)	I Have Finished Identifying The Practices Applied To This Crop
2. Field Grain Corn	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
4. Soybeans	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

Management Points are returned for the following:

- CPMT – Water Erosion
- CPMT – Wind Erosion
- CPMT – Soil Carbon
- CPMT – Sediment in Surface Water
- CPMT – Sediment in Surface Water
- CPMT – Total Phosphorus Loss
- CPMT – Soluble Phosphorus Loss
- CPMT – Surface Nitrogen Loss
- CPMT – Subsurface Nitrogen Loss
- CPMT – Nitrogen Loss to Air
- CPMT – Pesticide Management (Leaching)
- CPMT – Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)
- CPMT – Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)
- CPMT – Pesticide Management (Drift)

Irrigation Overview

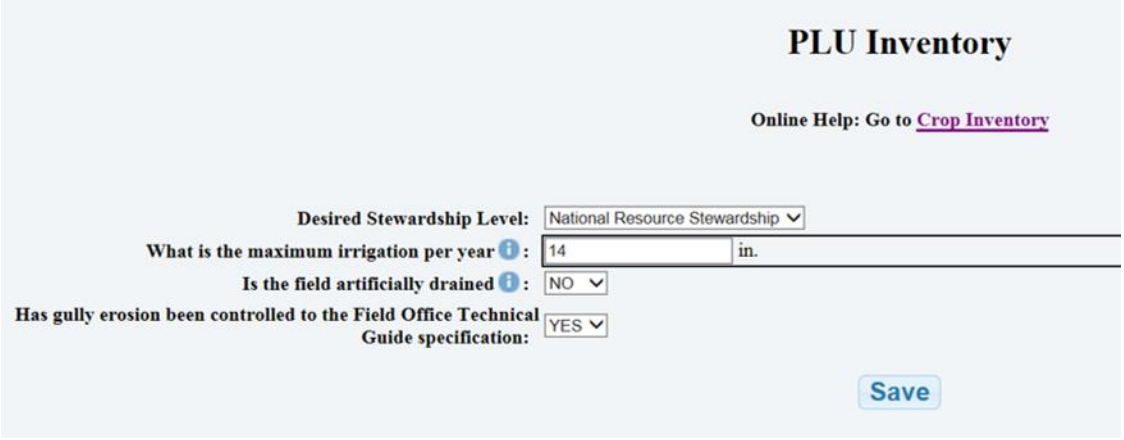
The Irrigation Management tab calculates irrigation stewardship by allowing the user to answer a portion of the Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI) questions on the data entry page and then uses a web service to get an immediate Irrigation System Efficiency rating. FIRI is an NRCS resource used by planners to evaluate irrigation systems and management. The Resource Stewardship platform modified FIRI, defined as FIRI "Light". This modified version is intended to allow greater efficiency in the data entry and farm evaluation processes.

FIRI Light performs a quick analysis to determine whether irrigation operations meet threshold. It is also used to compare an existing system to a proposed system in order to estimate water conserved. The RSET platform uses FIRI for crop and pasture land. It is not applicable for land uses that do not use irrigation, such as range.

Prior versions of RSET did not run FIRI Light and required the manual entry of external FIRI results. You can view irrigation information manually entered from FIRI or enter manual FIRI results in the Stand Alone Irrigation section of the tool.

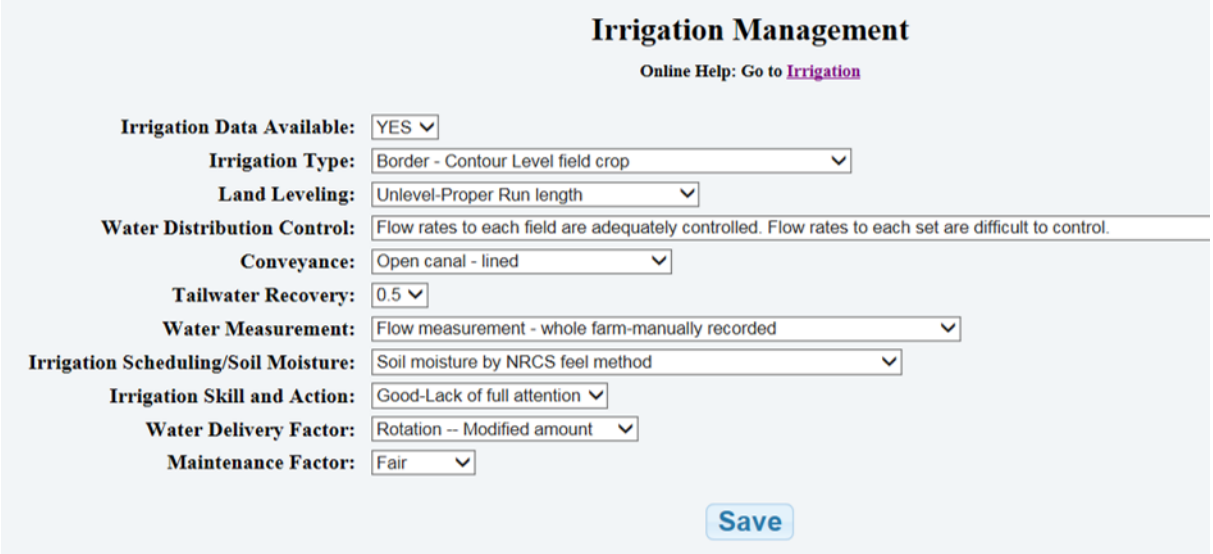
Irrigation Walk-Through

1. On the Inventory tab, enter the maximum irrigation per year and click Save. Irrigation data entry is only supported when an inventory survey has a maximum irrigation per year >0.



2. Click on the Irrigation Management tab or select Irrigation Management on the Roadmap .

3. If Irrigation data is not available, select No and skip the remaining questions. If Irrigation data is available, select Yes, answer the following questions for the selected irrigation type. The below example shows the irrigation questions for the irrigation type Border-Contour Level field crop.



Irrigation Data Available: Yes/No. If Yes, answer the following question.

Irrigation Type: Select answer from drop-down. Irrigation type answer choice will influence the following questions to answer for this section. Not every question will be asked for each irrigation type

Land Leveling: Select answer from drop-down

Water Distribution Control: Select answer from drop-down

Conveyance: Select answer from drop-down

Tailwater Recovery: Select answer from drop-down

Water Measurement: Select answer from drop-down

Irrigation Skill and Action: Select answer from drop-down

Irrigation Scheduling/Soil Moisture: Select answer from drop-down

Water Delivery Factor: Select answer from drop-down

Maintenance Factor: Select answer from drop-down

Emitter Clogging: Select answer from drop-down

Trickle Design: Select answer from drop-down

Climatic: Select answer from drop-down

Wind: Select answer from drop-down

Sprinkler Design: Select answer from drop-down

4. Click **Save**

Management Points are returned for the following:

Irrigation Management

Aquatic Habitat Overview

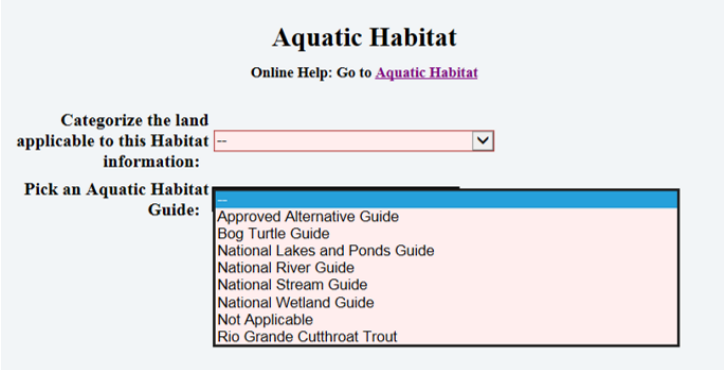
This section evaluates aquatic habitat by completing the appropriate aquatic Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). Different guides are available for selection depending on the type of aquatic habitat you are evaluating.

Aquatic Habitat Walk-Through

1. Click on the **Aquatic Habitat** tab or select Aquatic Habitat on the **Roadmap** .

2. Select the appropriate answer (PLU is part of larger Management Unit or PLU Only) for **Categorize the land applicable to this Habitat information**.

3. Select an aquatic habitat guide from the selection. If no guide is applicable, then select **Not Applicable.**



Currently, you can select the following for **Pick an Aquatic Habitat Guide**:

Approved Alternative Guide
Bog Turtle Guide
National Lakes and Ponds Guide
National River Guide
National Stream Guide
National Wetland Guide

Not Applicable
Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout

4. Select the appropriate answer choices from the drop down for each question for the habitat guide selected and click the **Save** button.

Note that if an **Approved Alternative Guide** is selected, utilize the guide outside Resource Stewardship and manually enter the information for **Name of Habitat Guide**, **Guide Threshold**, and **Guide Results**.

The Guide Threshold is 0.5 in most cases. The Guide Result (the client's score calculated based on the WHEG instructions) is typically a result between 0-1.

Management Points are returned for the following:

Aquatic Habitats

If you select Not Applicable for **Pick an Aquatic Habitat Guide** then Management Points will not be returned.

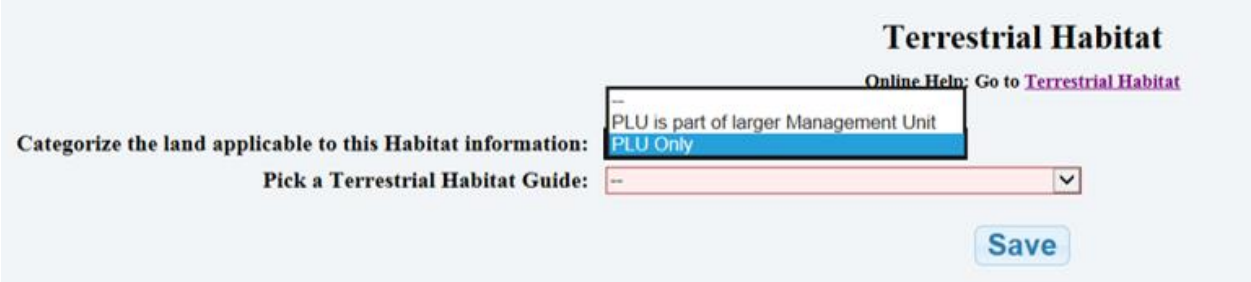
Terrestrial Habitat Overview

This section of the tool evaluates terrestrial habitat using the appropriate Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides (WHEGs). Different guides are available for selection depending on if you are completing a crop, pasture, or range evaluation. In addition, a limited number of Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) guides are also available.

Terrestrial Habitat Walk-Through

1. Click on the **Terrestrial Habitat** tab or select Terrestrial Habitat on the **Roadmap** .

2. Select the appropriate answer (PLU is part of larger Management Unit or PLU Only) for **Categorize the land applicable to this Habitat information**.



3. Select a terrestrial habitat guide from the applicable choices available.

Available for all Evaluations:

- Approved Alternative Guide
- Goldenwinged Warbler AppalachianMtn Guide
- Greater Sage Grouse (ND and SD)
- Greater Sage Grouse (WA)
- Greater Sage Grouse (Idaho)
- Lesser Prairie Chicken – Sand Sagebrush
- Lesser Prairie Chicken – Sand Shinnery Oak
- Monarch Butterfly Midwest Guide
- Monarch Butterfly Southern Great Plains Guide
- New England Cottontail
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher < 6000ft elev Guide
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher > 6000ft elev Guide

Available for Crop Evaluations:

- National Cropland (Flooded) Guide
- National Cropland (Unflooded) Guide
- National Cropland with Hay (Unflooded) Guide

National Hayland Guide

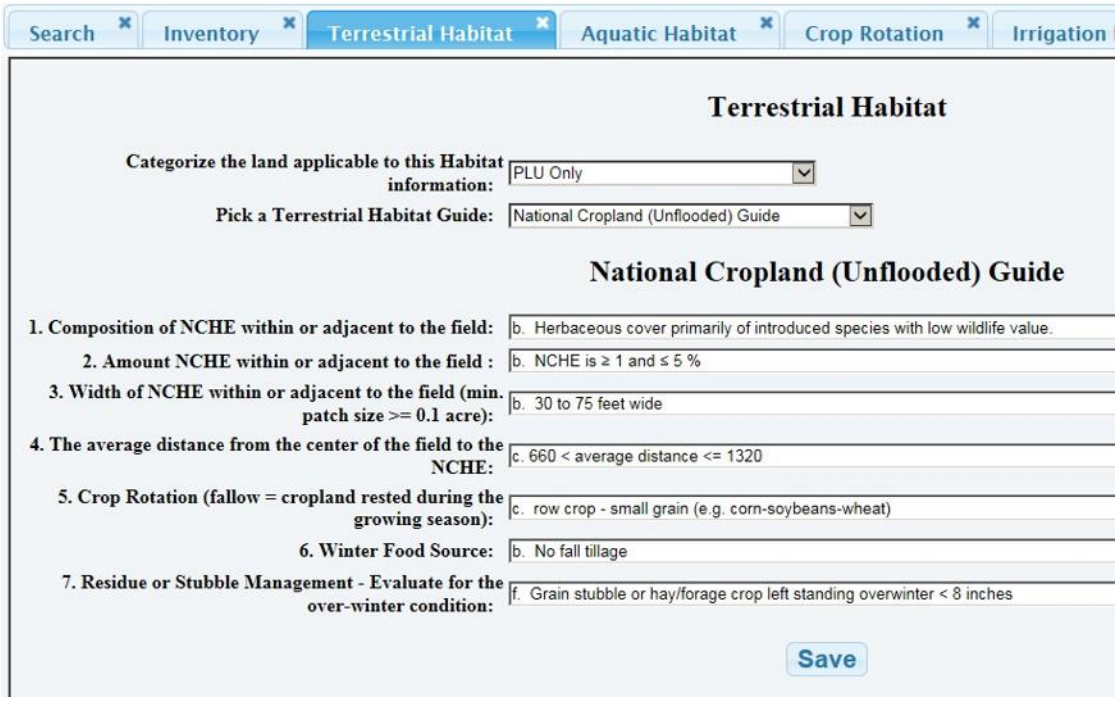
Available for Range Evaluations:
National Range Guide

Available for Pasture Evaluations:
National Pasture Guide

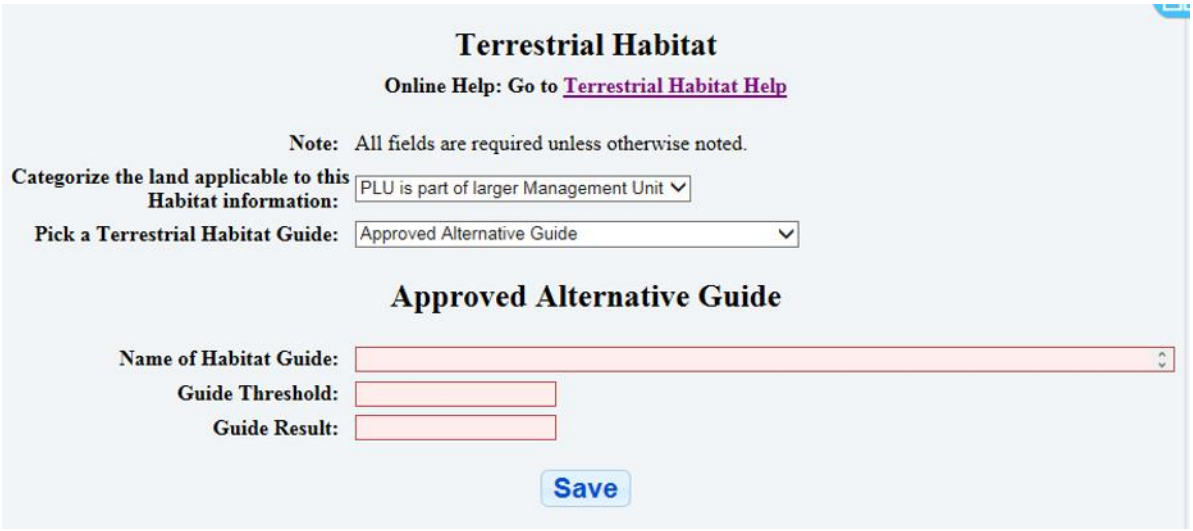
Available for Forest Evaluations (upcoming):
Forest-Terrestrial Habitat Guide

4. Select the appropriate answer choices from the drop down for each question for the terrestrial habitat guide selected and click the **Save** button.

Example



Note that if an **Approved Alternative Guide** is selected, utilize the guide outside Resource Stewardship and manually enter the information for **Name of Habitat Guide**, **Guide Threshold**, and **Guide Results.**



The Guide Threshold is 0.5 in most cases. The Guide Result (the client's score calculated based on the WHEG instructions) is typically a result between 0-1.

Management Points are returned for the following:

Terrestrial Habitats

Evaluation Results Overview

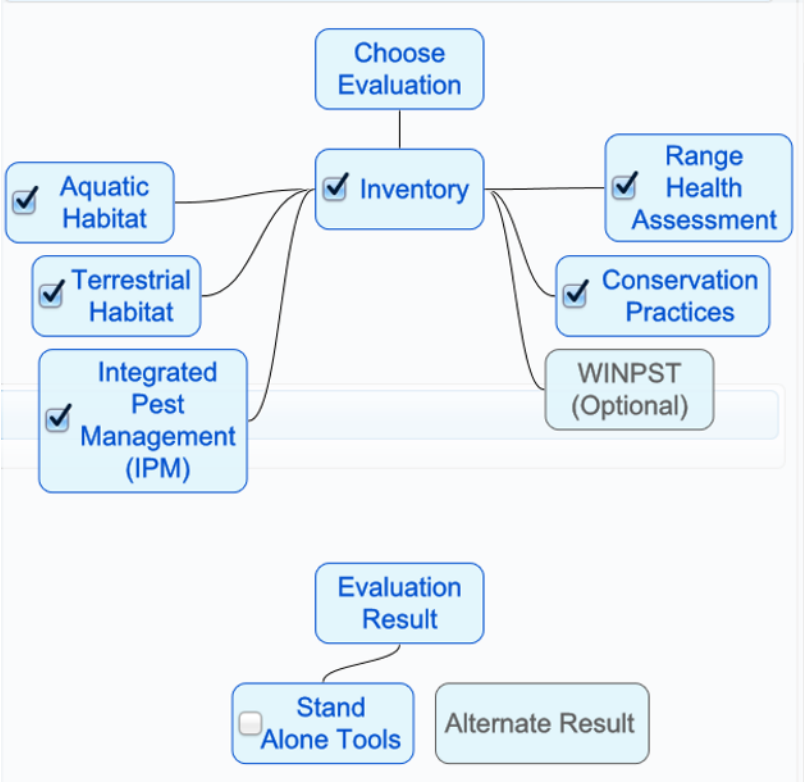
Evaluation results identify the condition at the site. Resource Stewardship can also evaluate alternative management scenarios or planned conservation activities to improve resource stewardship. Within the RS, most major resource concerns are made up of sub-concerns. The user has the option to evaluate each of those sub-concerns individually and determine their management level compared to the stewardship threshold.

Evaluation Results Walk-Through

The below example is for a Range evaluation but the steps are the same for Pasture evaluations.

1. Click on the **Roadmap** button and select **Evaluation Result**.

   Note: If **Evaluation Result** is not active, go through all the tabs to ensure that all information is entered and saved.

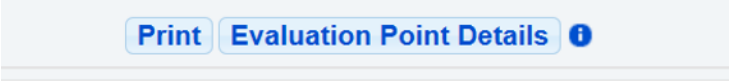


Note: See the Stand Alone Tools help webpage (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?cid=nrcseprd1335250) for help on how to complete the **Stand Alone Tools** section (if needed).

2. Close the Roadmap by clicking on the **Roadmap**  button again.

   The evaluation result can be printed by clicking the **Print** button at the bottom of the page.

   To view evaluation point details (if desired), click the **Evaluation Details** button at the bottom of the page. This page provides the numerical scores and thresholds for the Management Points in the evaluation. The Evaluation Details can be printed by clicking the **Print** button at the bottom of the Evaluation Details page.



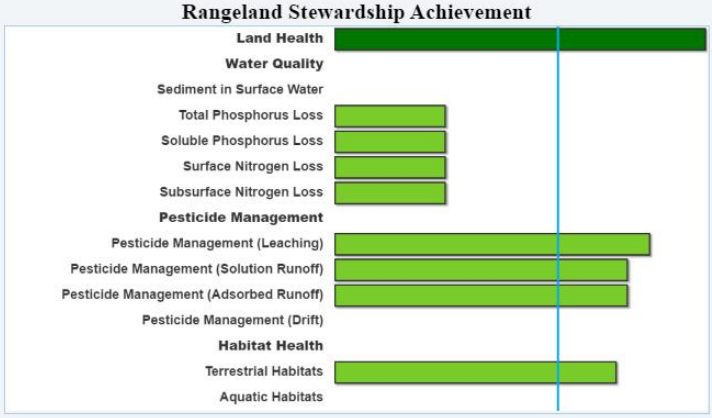
USDA

Resource Stewardship Evaluation

Evaluation: RSET Benchmark **Evaluation Date:** 04/27/2017
Benchmark: YES **Grazed:** YES
Land Unit: 1078/ ER10 **Land Use:** Range
State: NE **County:** Keya Paha
Client: EXTENDED BIKE SALES
Planner:
Planner Contact: FT COLLINS SERVICE CENTER & NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH CTR (105451)
2150 CENTRE AVE BLDG A, FORT COLLINS, CO 80526-8121
(970) 295-5000

Rangeland Stewardship Objectives

Rangeland Stewardship Achievement



Conservation Practices and Management Techniques

- Fence (382)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Livestock Pipeline (516)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Watering Facility (614)

Evaluation Details

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Print

Comparing Two Evaluations Overview

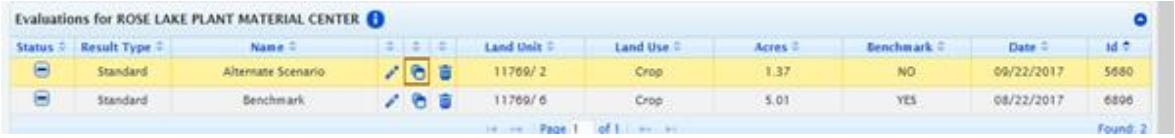
Comparing evaluations on the same PLU is useful in order to see how changes to the management system can improve or hinder stewardship. By comparing evaluations and identifying areas for improvement, land managers can better improve their resource stewardship and conservation. The evaluation results section allows the user to directly compare two different evaluations on the same report.

To compare evaluations on the same PLU, you must have two complete evaluations on the same land unit. To do this you can copy an evaluation, and then edit the copy to create an alternative scenario. Any number of alternative evaluations or alternative scenarios may be attached to a PLU. Comparisons may be made against the benchmark evaluation or other alternative evaluations.

The below example uses screenshot examples for a Crop evaluation but the steps are the same for Pasture and Range evaluations.

Copy an Evaluation to the Current PLU

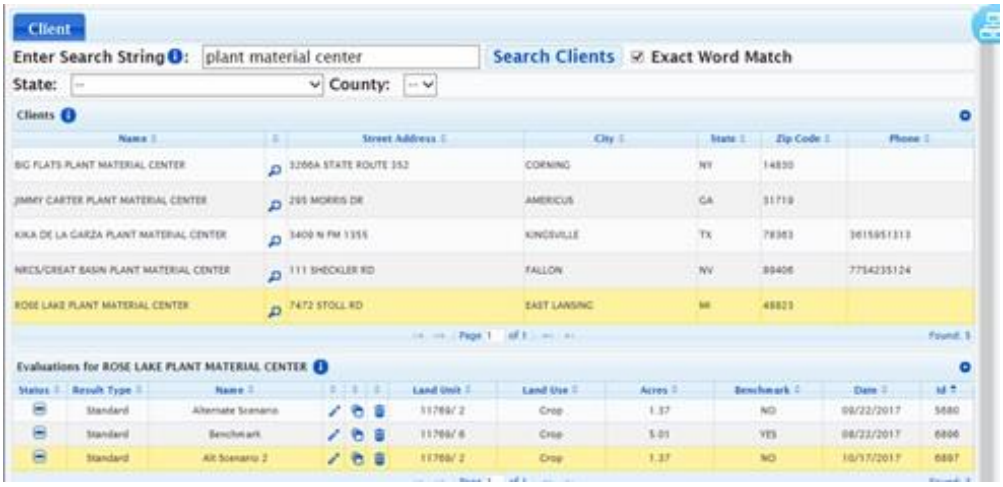
1. Copy an evaluation by clicking the **Copy Evaluation** button .



2. This opens up an Evaluation dialogue. To create an alternative scenario on the existing plan unit, enter the **Name** of the Evaluation and edit the **Date** or **Benchmark** as appropriate. Click **Submit** when finished.

The tool defaults to copying an evaluation on the existing PLU.

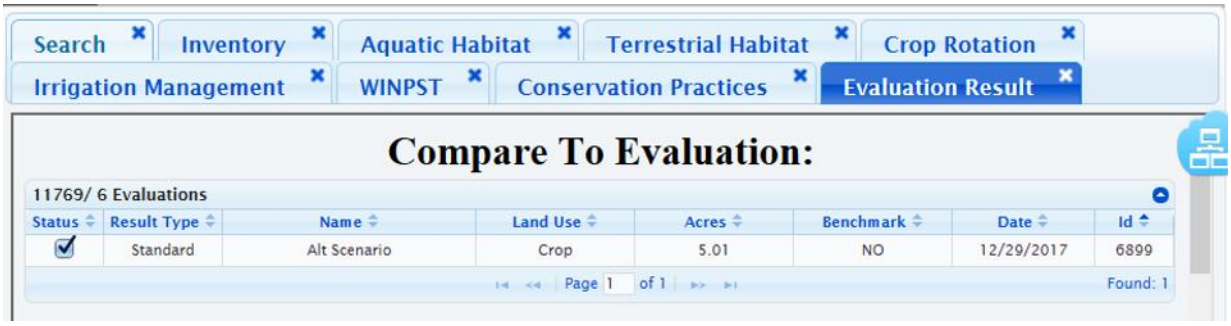
3. Click on the **Evaluation** to activate it and make any desired changes for the alternative scenario.



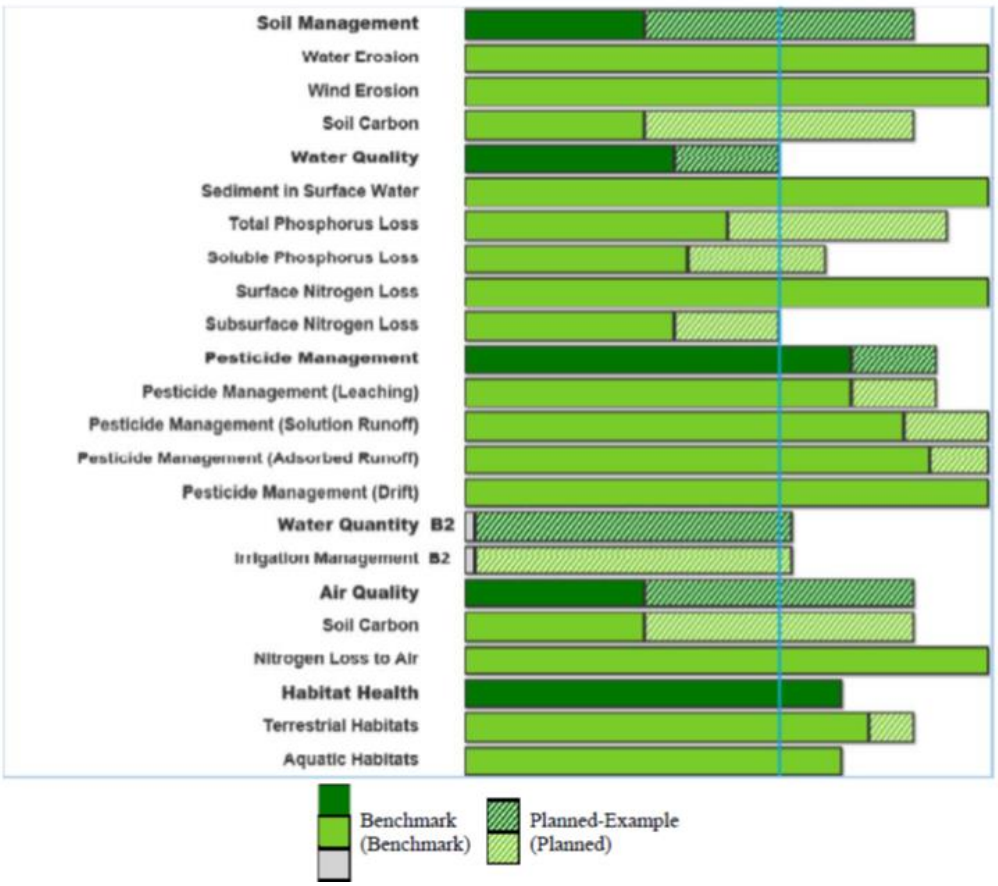
Comparing Two Evaluations on the Same Evaluation Report

1. Click **Evaluation Result** in the Roadmap or select the **Evaluation Result** tab.

2. Evaluations available to compare to the current evaluation will be displayed in the Evaluations bar at the top of the Evaluation Results page. **Select** the evaluation you would like to compare by clicking on it.



The current evaluation will be compared to the selected alternative scenario evaluation. The alternative scenario evaluation will show up on the bar chart as shaded.


Soil Management
Water Erosion
Wind Erosion
Soil Carbon
Water Quality
Sediment in Surface Water
Total Phosphorus Loss
Soluble Phosphorus Loss
Surface Nitrogen Loss
Subsurface Nitrogen Loss
Pesticide Management
Pesticide Management (Leaching)
Pesticide Management (Solution Runoff)
Pesticide Management (Adsorbed Runoff)
Pesticide Management (Drift)
Water Quantity B2
Irrigation Management B2
Air Quality
Soil Carbon
Nitrogen Loss to Air
Habitat Health
Terrestrial Habitats
Aquatic Habitats
Benchmark
(Benchmark)
Planned-Example
(Planned)

Grazing Operation Evaluation Results Overview

When the Grazing Operation Evaluation (GOE) is linked to the planned land unit (PLU) Evaluation, the Evaluation Results in the Roadmap will be active and Grazing Management will show up in the graphical assessment.

The Grazing Operation Evaluation Stewardship Result shows the level of stewardship that is achieved by grazing management alone. The planned land unit evaluation(s) provide the level of stewardship achieved by the condition of the land and the specific types of conservation activities implemented by the producer.

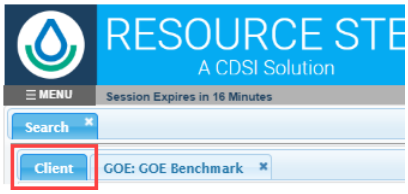
Please note that if the Grazing Operation Evaluation is linked to an incomplete PLU Evaluation, the Grazing Operation Evaluation is also incomplete. The evaluation would need to be unlinked, completed and then linked again.

The below walk-throughs demonstrate how to link a Grazing Operation Evaluation to a PLU Evaluation, how to compare the evaluation results for two separate PLUs linked to the Grazing Operation Evaluation and how to compare multiple Grazing Operation Evaluations to each other.

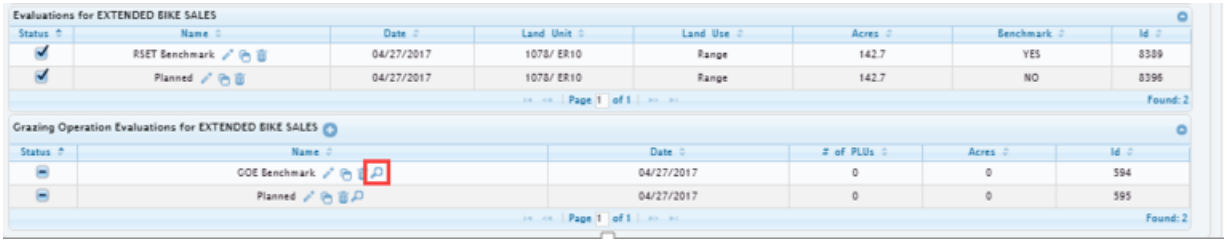
Grazing Operation Evaluation Results Walk-Through

Link the Grazing Operation Evaluation to the Planned Land Unit (PLU) Evaluation

1. After identifying a client and planned land unit and creating a Grazing Operation Evaluation, from the Search tab scroll down to the Operation Evaluations bar.

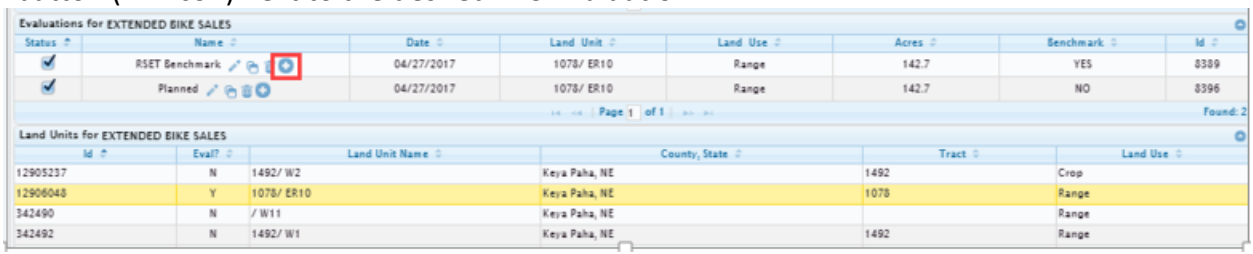


2. Under the Operation Evaluations bar, click the **View or Edit the Evaluation Set Details** button (magnifying glass icon) for the selected Grazing Operation Evaluation.

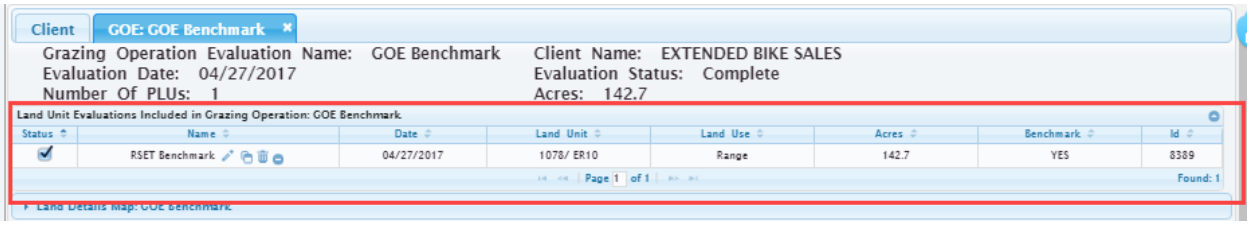


3. Click the land unit for the client that you want to link to the Operation Evaluation.

4. In the Evaluations bar click on the **Add Evaluation to Grazing Operation Evaluation** button ("+" icon) next to the desired PLU Evaluation.

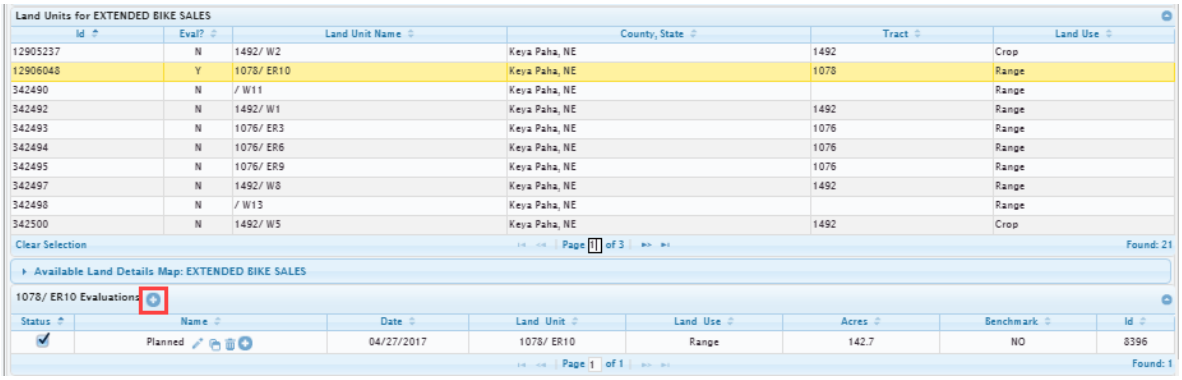


Note that the selected PLU evaluation is now included in the Land Unit Evaluations Included in the Grazing Operation bar at the top of the page.



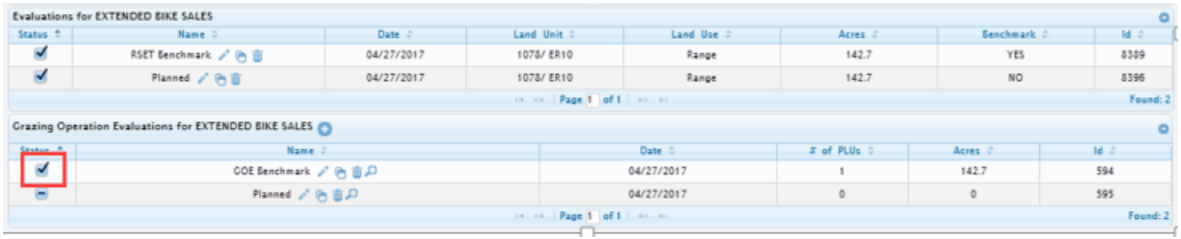
If needed, new PLU assessments can be added at this time.

5. Scroll to the bottom of the screen and click the **Add New Evaluation** button. Fill out the assessment and save.

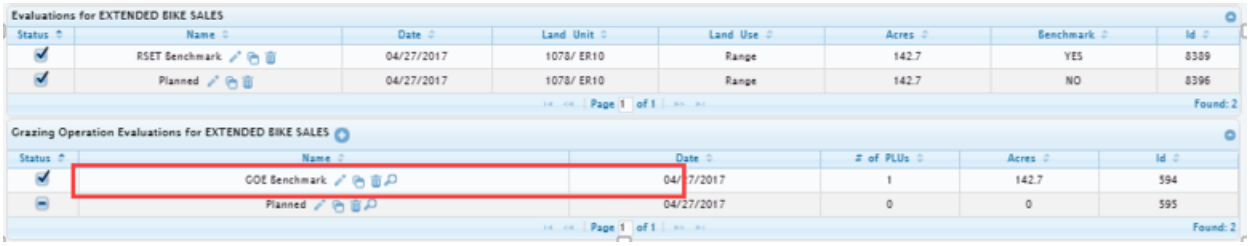


6. Scroll back up and click the **Client** tab.

Notice that the status is marked complete and denoted by a check mark for the Operation Evaluation in the Operation Evaluations bar.

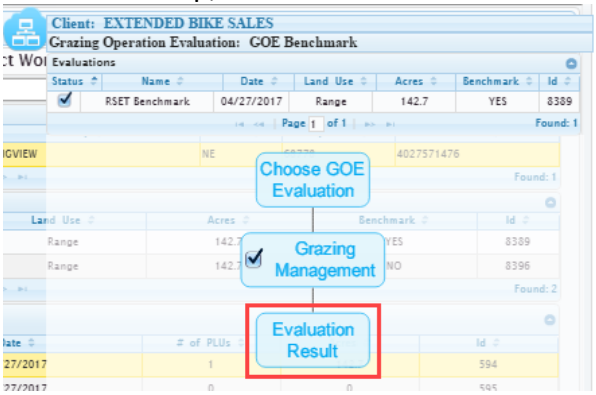


7. Click on the Operation Evaluation to select it.



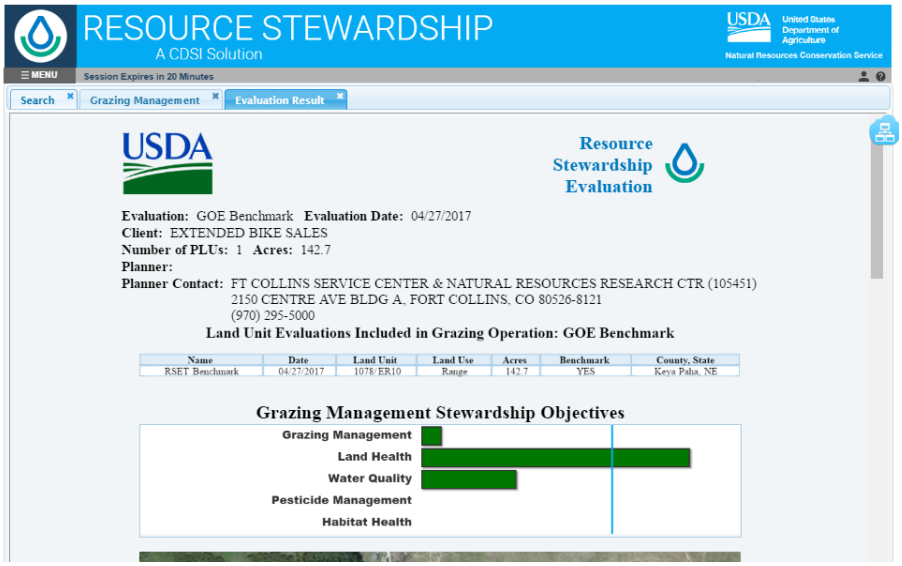
8. Click on the **Roadmap** button.

9. In the Roadmap, click **Evaluation Result**.



10. Close the Roadmap by clicking on the **Roadmap** button.

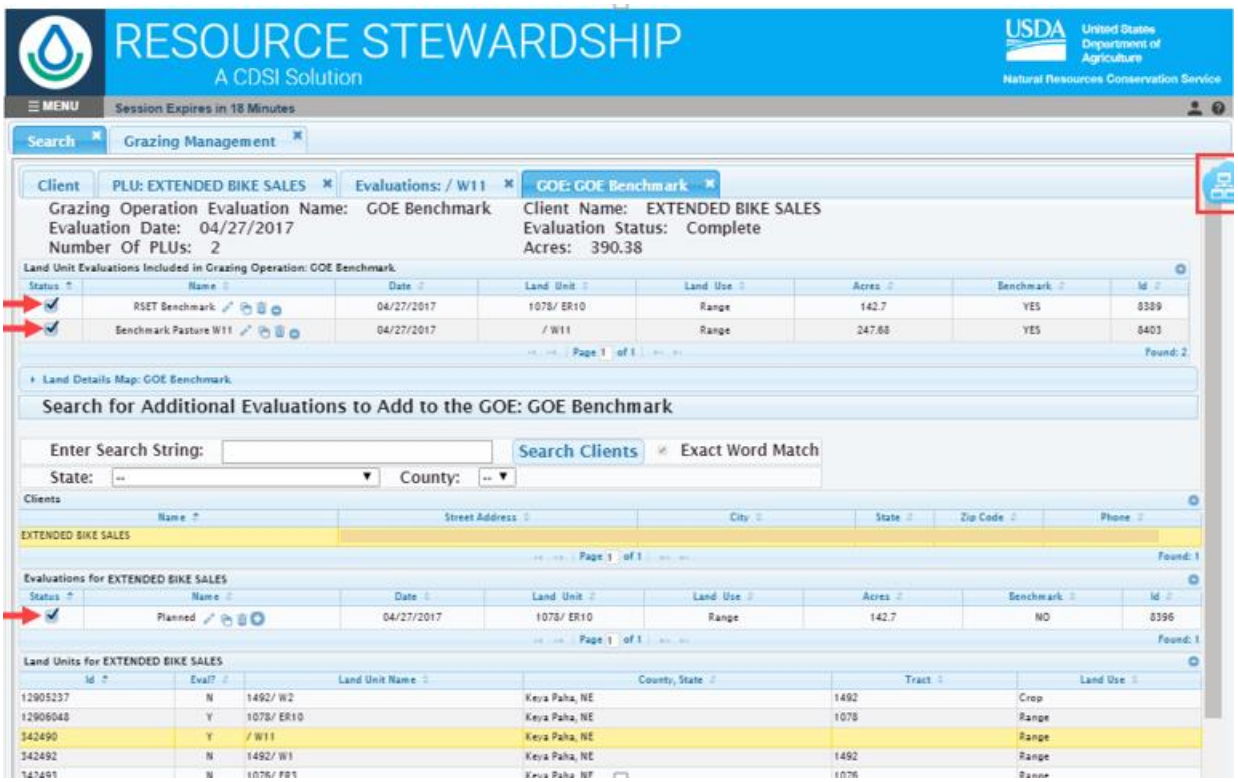
The Evaluation Result will show both Grazing Management Stewardship Objectives (from the Grazing Operation Evaluation) and Resource Concern Categories (from the PLUs linked to the GOE).



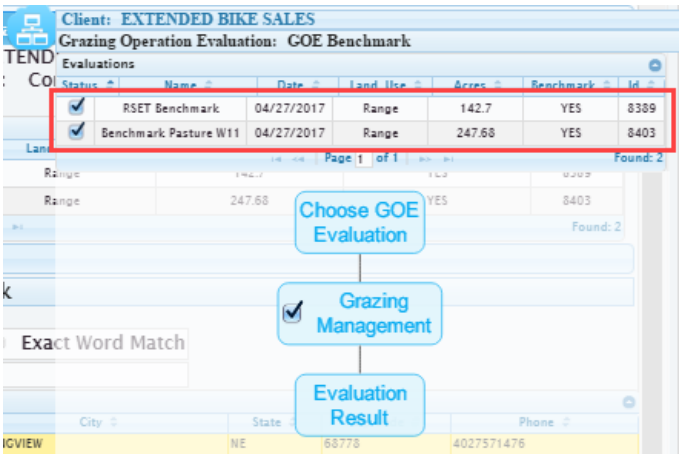
Combine a Grazing Operation Evaluation and Multiple PLU Evaluation Results

Situation: An evaluation has been created on another land unit and it has also been linked to the Grazing Operation Evaluation. You can link the Grazing Operation Evaluation to different land unit evaluations following the steps above and have a combined evaluation result.

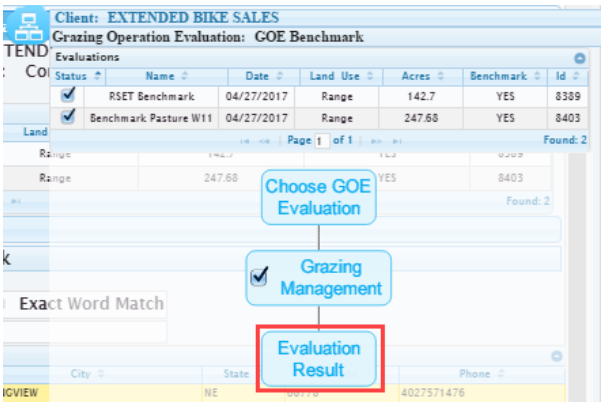
1. Click on the **Search** tab and then the **Operation Evaluation** tab. Note that the status is marked complete for the evaluations in the Land Unit Evaluations Included in the Grazing Operations bar and The Grazing Operation Evaluation is linked to the PLU evaluation (per the steps above)



2. Click on the **Roadmap**. The planned land units that have been completed and previously linked to the Grazing Operation Evaluation are listed.

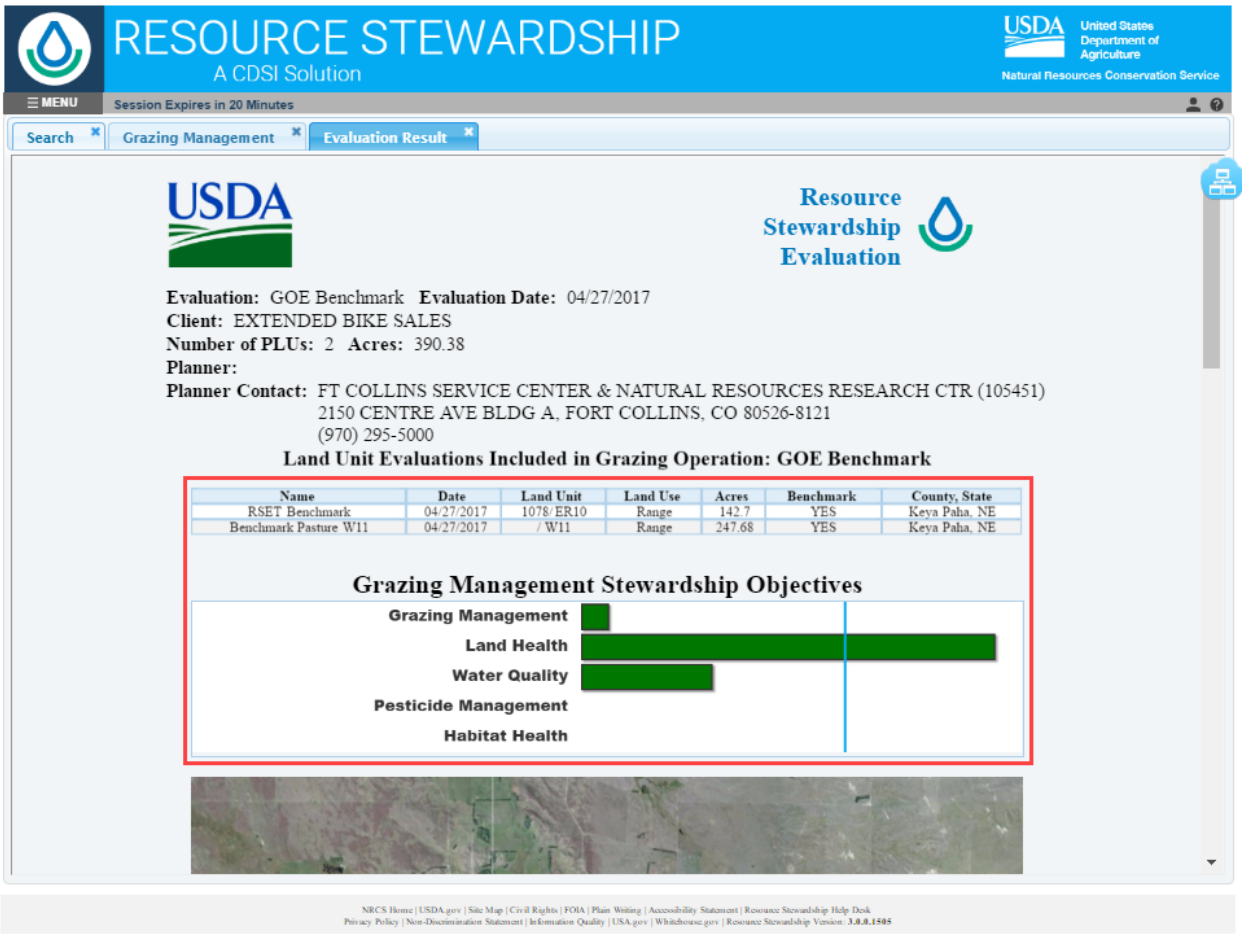


2. In the Roadmap, click on **Evaluation Result**.



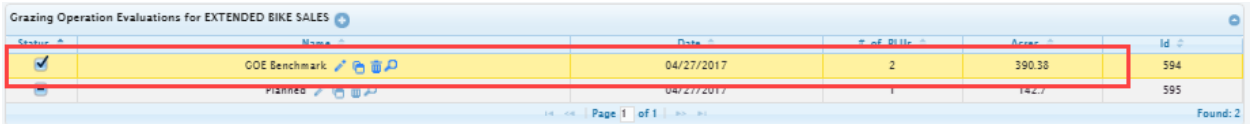
3. Close the Roadmap by clicking the **Roadmap** button.

4. The full stewardship evaluation results for both PLUs linked to the Operation Evaluations are shown. Note that the Grazing Management score is shown at the top, and the PLU scores (of PLUs linked to the Operation Evaluation) are averaged by acres and then shown in the final score. This final stewardship report can be kept in the conservation plan folder.

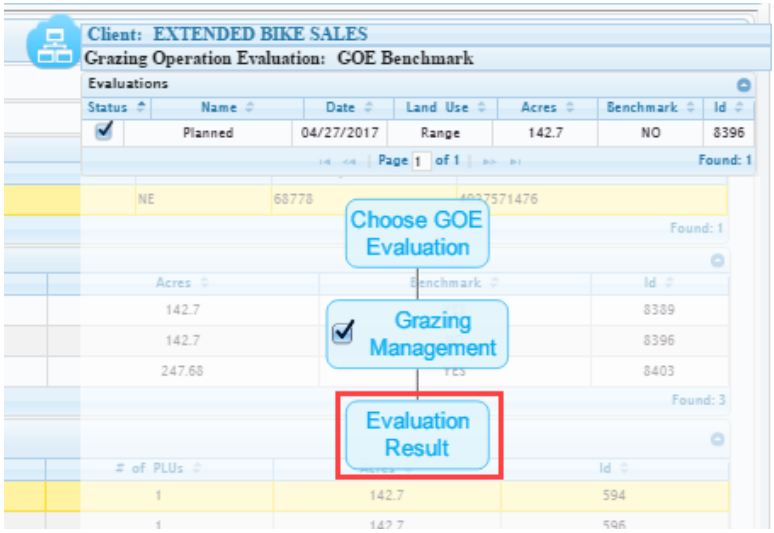


Compare Two Grazing Operation Evaluations

1. To compare two Operation Evaluations (such as a Grazing Operation Evaluation benchmark and to an alternate Grazing Operation Evaluation scenario), start on the Client tab, scroll down and select the desired evaluation**,** then click on the **Roadmap** button.

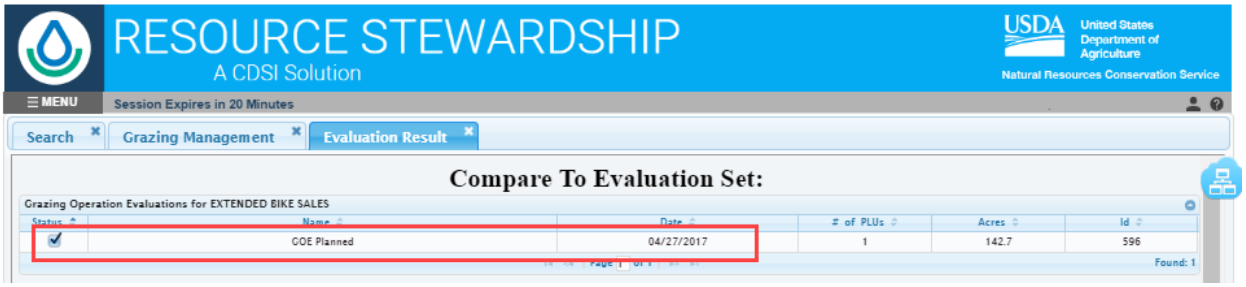


2. In the Roadmap, click **Evaluation Result**.



3. Close the Roadmap by clicking the **Roadmap** button.

4. Click on the Operation evaluation you want to compare to.



The two Operation Evaluations on the land unit are shown in the report. The Operation Evaluation being compared against the initial evaluation selected will appear in the graph as grey (shaded).